

Information for All Candidates Running in the 2018 Provincial Election


New Brunswick Association for Community Living

Did You Know? ...

- New Brunswick has the second highest rate of disability in Canada at 16.4% of the provincial population.
- Canada ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* in 2010 with New Brunswick's agreement.
- New Brunswick has a world renown inclusive education policy and system that many other countries are looking at to address their human rights requirements for an inclusive education system.
- 70% of adults with an intellectual or developmental disability live in poverty and many have to live on less than \$800 per month.
- People with an intellectual or developmental disability are ready, willing and able to work **BUT** 70-80% are either unemployed or under employed. Many also need assistance to make a successful transition from high school to work.
- People with an intellectual or developmental disability can contribute to their communities and become more independent but often require support from their communities and government funded programs to achieve these goals.
- Lack of access to transportation is one of the most significant barriers preventing people with a disability from working and becoming more involved in their communities.
- Many people with an intellectual or developmental disability experience mental health issues but are denied access to the mental health services that they require.
- People with a disability are vulnerable under our new laws for Medical Assistance in Dying.


To ensure that people with an intellectual or developmental disability can live meaningful and productive lives as full citizens, we need government and community action in a number of important areas. In the next 4 years, develop and implement actions in the following priorities:

- ✓ **Access to Mental Health Services** – Develop and implement a strategy to address the mental health needs of people with an intellectual or developmental disability.
- ✓ **Employment** – Increase the employment rate of people with an intellectual or developmental disability and to ensure that young people leaving school can work.
- ✓ **Inclusive Education** – Implement policies and strategies to strengthen inclusive education in our public schools and to address the support and learning needs of children and youth with challenging behaviours within an inclusive education system.
- ✓ **Address Poverty** - Increase income assistance rates for people with a disability and develop fairer eligibility criteria and processes for people trying to access disability income benefits.
- ✓ **Housing and Personal Supports** – Adopt the goal and policy of adults with a disability having the right to a home of their own with the supports that they require and provide greater access to affordable housing.

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- ✓ **Transportation** – Implement a provincial transportation strategy that includes specific measures to enhance access to affordable transportation for people with an intellectual or developmental disability.
 - ✓ **Supported Decision Making** – Change our laws to ensure that people with an intellectual disability can access the federal Registered Disability Savings Plan and have the supports they require to make decisions that affect their lives.
 - ✓ **Medical Assistance in Dying** – Ensure better supports with people with a disability (including disability supports, pain management and palliative care) and monitor the use of assisted dying to ensure vulnerable people are protected.

The New Brunswick Association for Community Living is a provincial non-profit organization that works on behalf of the estimated 22,000 individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability living in New Brunswick and their families. Since 1957, we have worked to ensure that people have the supports they need to live, learn, work and actively participate in their communities as valued and contributing members. For more information, visit www.nbacl.nb.ca.

For a full copy of our 2018 *election briefing note* use the following link: <http://nbacl.nb.ca/briefing-note-for-new-brunswick-political-parties-regarding-people-with-an-intellectual-or-developmental-disability-and-their-families/>



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