

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

National Disability Network launches Disability Agenda to advance inclusion and accessibility across Canada

June 1, 2026 — On the first day of 2026 National AccessAbility Week, the National Disability Network (NDN) is releasing its **Disability Agenda: National Advocacy Priorities for the Government of Canada (2026–2029)**.

Its release coincides with the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and highlights the need to translate Canada's commitments into measurable outcomes.

The NDN is a coalition of disability organizations from across Canada, working collectively to advance disability rights and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities in Canadian society.

The Disability Agenda identifies a focused set of federal leadership actions to strengthen Canada's disability rights framework and drive meaningful outcomes in partnership with people with disabilities.

The agenda calls on the Government of Canada to:

- **Make the CRPD law in Canada**, establishing a clear, durable legal foundation for disability rights and aligning federal decision-making with international obligations.
- **Modernize federal disability program eligibility**, replacing fragmented and burdensome systems with a consistent, dignified, and portable approach.
- **Adopt a government-wide disability inclusion policy** to ensure accessibility by default and prevent creating new barriers.
- **Strengthen and sustain the Canada Disability Benefit** so it effectively reduces poverty and improves economic security.
- **Advance accessible, inclusive housing and employment** as core drivers of participation, inclusion, and economic growth.

The Disability Agenda underscores that disability inclusion is both a human rights obligation and an economic imperative.

The Government of Canada has established a strong legislative and policy foundation for disability inclusion through measures such as the Accessible Canada Act and the Disability Inclusion Action Plan. However, systemic barriers in income supports, employment, housing, and core federal systems—including programs, benefits, eligibility processes, and service delivery—continue to limit full participation and highlight the need to move from commitment to implementation and impact.

The NDN calls on the Government of Canada to demonstrate sustained leadership, strengthen accountability, and work in partnership with the disability community to achieve a barrier-free Canada by 2040.

Media Inquiries:

Brian Hill
Communications Manager, Public Affairs,
Advocacy & Strategic Communications
bhill@marchofdimes.ca
873-355-9289