

2026 Position Statement on Disability Services

Austerity Is Atrocious



#WeAreODSSBC

A summary of the cuts to disability services right across Canada, and how it affects us here in BC.

Director's Message



As the Executive Director of Olivia Douglas Support Services BC, I am appalled by the way people with disabilities are being treated, not just in BC, but across Canada. As self-advocates running a peer support network, and ancillary services, we persevere.

We understand that the services you count on are being cut. We at ODSSBC understand your stress, sadness and sorrow. We advocate for the restoration of funding to the services that disabled British Columbians can count on. In this position statement, we outline some examples of cruelty in the disability sector, and why it's important to overcome them. Together, we can get through this.

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Executive Director - Olivia Douglas Support Services BC

Case Studies

Less Self-Advocacy in Alberta

When self-advocates get their funding cut, our voices are silenced, like what happened to the Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association, Calgary’s Disability Action Hall, and Edmonton’s Self Advocacy Federation (Tipper, 2025), to the tune of \$425,000, money that was worthwhile to be spend, and essential for self-determination, healthy relationships, and educating disabled Albertans about human rights.



Nova Scotia Disability Services Cut

In Nova Scotia, a program called Club Inclusion has it’s funding mercilessly zeroed, along with a 10 percent cut to all other day programs, along with a reduction in the Nova Scotia caregiver benefit; defined by one parent as cruel (Guye & Grant, 2026); cuts like these are simply unacceptable.



Case Studies

Changes to AISH in Alberta

Also in Alberta, the government is rolling out a new disability assistance program called ADAP, which stands for Alberta Disability Assistance Program. This program promises to deliver a new, higher standard of cruelty by lowering income assistance payments for most recipients with a disability, which is obviously something we don't stand for at ODSSBC (Mah & Journal, 2026).



Changes to SAID in Saskatchewan

Similarly, Saskatchewan is making changes to their disability support programs as well, with the opposition party in the province arguing that queueing up to slash the benefits of disabled Saskatoons, along with the government declaring that SAID is a program of destitution (2026).

Case Studies

Cuts to post-secondary in Ontario

In Ontario, inclusion is being set back in post-secondary with the elimination of the Algonquin College’s Academic Assistance for Students with Developmental Disabilities program, due to the insistence from the Ontario government to focus on programs with a credential (“Families,” 2025). This program offered academic upgrading programs, as well as life skills and help with finding work.



Increase in housing costs in Alberta

In Alberta, rental prices for those living in community housing went up 63%, co existing with the Canada Disability Benefit clawback, which makes it harder for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to afford a home, put food on the table, and keep disabled Albertans safe (Sourn, 2025).



Case Studies

Sub-standard housing in Manitoba

In Manitoba, there is the story of a disabled woman with a walker that doesn't fit inside her own apartment, where she consumes food, sits, and sleeps on the same bed, where there is an extreme bedbug infestation and a feeling of a lack of safety (Beakes, 2025).



Results of a lack of equity

People across Canada are facing an epidemic with service cuts, poor housing opportunities, cuts to the programs that benefit people with disabilities, from self-advocacy, to day programs, disability assistance programs, and housing. These deep, Canada-wide cuts affect all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Back to BC

Beginnings of one community inclusion project

An agency by the name of Kudoz, as it was called then, started in what is called “Apartment #303” approximately 10 years ago, and aimed to reduce the isolation of community members through innovative service delivery (Curiko, 2026). Kudoz renamed itself to Curiko in 2020 (2026).

The impact

1,200 participants eventually joined the program, with 72 hosts, 700 hours of coaching, and 12 roles as peer facilitators (Curiko, 2026). CLBC zeroed out all funding from Curiko, and it looks like other InWithForward projects are on the chopping block too.

The budget

\$84 million dollars was spent on community inclusion programs in the 2024/2025 fiscal year (Curiko, 2026). We risk the loss of research and development in social service, and the loss of innovative service delivery, suffering from the demands of an ever more constrained public purse.



Conclusion

Where should we go from here?

The availability of programs like Club Inclusion and Curiko should continue, as argued by a study in this field (Merrells et al., 2018). A study on leisure correlates these findings (García-Villamisar & Dattilo, 2010). We should allow people with disabilities to speak up for themselves, because they desire to share their voice (Robinson et al., 2022). Leaders in this province, and this country need to step up to the plate, and afford disabled people the same human rights as anyone else. At ODSSBC, we'll work with Inclusion BC, BC People First, and the Province of British Columbia to achieve the objectives of inclusion, from a compassionate perspective; while preserving human rights.



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