

March
2024



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Provincial Budget 2024

On February 20, 2024 the Provincial Budget was released. Through our membership with InclusionBC, there were three top funding priorities we asked the government to focus on:

- Livable income;
- Secure housing;
- Improved health and mental health support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Here is How We Think They Did:

\$300 million to support more people receiving income and disability assistance.

This investment does not represent an increase in individual supports. It is meant to address the increased number of people receiving the benefit at the current rates.

This lack of investment is very disappointing, and all our efforts will now shift to getting the federal government to budget the national disability benefit. We will continue to carve out access points for people with disabilities and their families in the provincial housing strategy.

\$2 billion to support people's access to the full range of health services, including primary and acute care, long-term care, assisted living, home care, mental health and substance use, and recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals.

Although there was no reference to disability, we do feel this positions us well to meet with the Ministry of Health and, guided by our position statement, request the development of a targeted strategy and the creation of an oversight structure attached to this investment.

\$105 million over three years to help more adults with developmental disabilities access services.

This investment represents the growing number of people receiving Community Living BC funded services and does not reflect an investment in new solutions or strengthening the sector. We have more work to do.

Position Statements and Letter to the Minister of Health

The Community Living Society is a member of Inclusion BC, which is a provincial federation of community organizations who support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. InclusionBC advocate on behalf of their membership and all people with developmental disabilities to help remove barriers.

In an effort to communicate to those with the power to make structural change, InclusionBC is writing a series of position statements outlining their stance on key issues facing the disability community. Five position statements will be released this this year, along with requests for meetings with Ministers to discuss concerns and calls to action.

The first of these five position statements focused on access to health and coordinated care. This statement reflected our sector's ongoing concern that people are falling through the cracks of our provincial health care system, and outlined ways that this intolerable situation could be addressed. Both technical and plain language versions of the document are available. A letter was also sent to the Minister of Health Adrian Dix requesting a meeting to discuss our collective concerns.

The Position Statement on Access to Health and Coordination of Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities:

[Letter to the Minister of Health](#)

[Position Statement - Technical Version](#)

[Position Statement - Plain Language Version](#)

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