

2025 Federal Election Advocacy Toolkit

We are sharing this Advocacy Toolkit, developed by Inclusion Canada and adapted by Inclusion Alberta for our province, that includes practical advice, suggestions on which priorities are most relevant in our province, and template letters to effectively communicate with your local candidates.

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Quick Start Guide Advocacy Checklist

1. **Find Your Candidates:** Use elections.ca by postal code.
2. **Reach Out:** Request meetings using Template Letter A.
3. **Know Your Focus:** Select 1-2 Inclusion Canada priorities:
 - Enhancing Financial Security
 - Reforming MAiD Law
 - Inclusive Employment
 - Inclusive Affordable Housing
 - Strengthening Families

Inclusion Alberta offers suggestions on which may be most relevant in Alberta, in the Talking Points and Questions for Candidates section of this document.

4. **Prepare Key Messages:** Review bolded **Key Asks** and talking points.
5. **Engage:** Clearly communicate your priorities to the candidate.
6. **Follow Up:** Use **Template Letter B** within 48 hours.
7. **REPORT BACK:** Complete [feedback survey](https://forms.office.com/r/X1WwxPk7cr)
<https://forms.office.com/r/X1WwxPk7cr>
8. **Amplify (Optional):** Share advocacy on social media

Introduction: Why Your Voice Matters

The upcoming federal election is a key moment to ensure the rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families are priorities. Your engagement with local candidates is vital. This toolkit helps you communicate Inclusion Canada's "Stronger Together: 2025 Federal Election Priorities" effectively. Candidates need to hear directly from you. Your stories add power to our national priorities.

Our Collective Goal: Secure commitments from all parties for actionable steps towards a truly inclusive Canada.

Inclusion Canada's 2025 Priorities

1. Enhancing Financial Security: Lift adults with disabilities out of poverty.
2. Reforming MAiD Law: Repeal discriminatory Track 2 MAiD.
3. Inclusive Employment: Real jobs for real pay. Inclusive Affordable Housing: Increase access for all.
4. Strengthening Families: Support children, youth, and families.

Refer to the full ["Stronger Together: 2025 Federal Election Priorities"](https://inclusioncanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Election-Priorities-EN.pdf) document for complete details. <https://inclusioncanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Election-Priorities-EN.pdf>

How to Engage with Candidates

Step 1: Find Your Candidates

- [Elections Canada](#)
- **Party Websites:** Check major party sites.
 - [Liberal Party of Canada](#)
 - [Conservative Party of Canada](#)
 - [New Democratic Party](#)
 - [Green Party of Canada](#)
- **Local Media/Debates:** Watch for local announcements.

Step 2: Request a Meeting / Connect

- **Email** (Recommended): **Use Template Letter A.** Concise and professional.
- **Phone:** Call the campaign office; state your purpose clearly.
- **Events:** Attend local events for brief interactions or questions.
- Alternatively, use this when a candidate comes to your door or drop material off at the candidate's campaign office.

Step 3: Prepare for Your Interaction

- **Review:** Re-read the priorities document and relevant talking points/questions (See talking point section of the kit).
- **Focus:** Choose 1-3 priorities most important to you.
- **Personalize:** Prepare a brief personal story or local example.
- **Know Your Asks:** Be ready to state the specific Key Asks you're focusing on.

Step 4: During the Meeting/Conversation

- **Introduce:** Name, constituent, connection to Inclusion Canada or why you care about disability issues.
- **Purpose:** State you're there to discuss election priorities that are important to you.
- **Share:** Use talking points (Link to talking point section). Add your brief story if appropriate.
- **Ask:** Use suggested questions (link to talking point section) or your own. Ask directly for commitments on the Key Asks.

- **Listen:** Note their responses and level of understanding/commitment.
- **Offer Info:** Leave/send the "Stronger Together" document. Offer Inclusion Canada as a resource.
- **Be Respectful:** Maintain a constructive tone.

Step 5: Follow Up

- **Thank You:** Send Template Letter B within 48 hours. Reiterate a key point or commitment.
- **REPORT BACK:** Fill out the confidential [feedback survey](https://forms.office.com/r/X1WwxPk7cr)
<https://forms.office.com/r/X1WwxPk7cr>

Talking Points and Questions for Candidates

Adapt these points. Focus on the **Key Asks**.

Priority 1: Enhancing Financial Security

Context: 70% poverty rate is unacceptable for adults w/ intellectual disabilities outside the family home.

Talking Points:

- Benefits must be protected against any federal (F) and from provincial/ territorial clawbacks like that [announced by Alberta](https://inclusion.alberta.org/connections/media-release-government-of-alberta-depriving-tens-of-thousands-of-aish-recipients-poverty-relief-by-clawing-back-canada-disability-benefit/).
<https://inclusion.alberta.org/connections/media-release-government-of-alberta-depriving-tens-of-thousands-of-aish-recipients-poverty-relief-by-clawing-back-canada-disability-benefit/>
- Eligibility needs to be simple and broad, not just rely on the complex and difficult to access Disability Tax Credit (DTC).
- We need to make filing income tax easier for people by implementing automatic tax filing.
- The definition of disability used to qualify for the DTC needs to be aligned with the [Accessible Canada Act definition](#) because it is broader and will include more people.
- Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) rules need reform for easier access and representation.

Our Key Asks:

- Redesign the CDB to prevent any, and all CDB clawbacks like that [announced by the Government of Alberta](#).
- Expand CDB eligibility beyond people who qualify for the DTC; provincial disability income recipients for programs like AISH should automatically qualify.
- Expand automatic tax filing to low-income people with disabilities.
- Align DTC eligibility criteria with [Accessible Canada Act broad definition](#) of disability.
- Simplify RDSP representative appointment & loosen withdrawal rules.

Questions:

"How will your party ensure the CDB reaches everyone who needs it and cannot be clawed back as the Government of Alberta has said it will do?"

"What steps will you take to simplify access to benefits like the DTC and RDSP?"

Priority 2: Reforming MAiD Law (Repeal Track 2)

Context: Track 2 MAiD (for people with a disability who are not at end of life) is discriminatory; it offers death as a response to poverty and lack of supports.

Talking Points:

- Track 2 MAiD targets people w/ disabilities lacking adequate supports. It's wrong.
- Track 2 MAiD is discriminatory as it singles out people with disabilities as the only group who are not dying that are eligible to die. It says their lives are not worth saving.
- MAiD for disability alone devalues life; Canada must invest in support for living. It should not be easier to access death by lethal injection than to access supports needed to live a decent life.
- The planned 2027 expansion to mental illness should not go forward which makes repealing Track 2 MAiD even more urgent.
- Track 1 (for those facing foreseeable death) needs stronger safeguards, ensuring consent and access to supports to live.

Our Key Asks:

- Repeal Track 2 MAiD.
- No further MAiD expansion (e.g., for mental illness, mature minors, advanced requests).
- Investigate and address root causes of suffering (lack of support, poverty, etc.).
- Ensure Track 1 MAiD is properly safeguarded.
- Defend an end-of-life requirement before the Supreme Court.

Questions:

"Does your party agree Track 2 MAiD is discriminatory?"

"Will you commit to repealing Track 2 MAiD?"

"Instead of expanding MAiD, how will your party invest in the supports people with disabilities need to live dignified lives?"

Priority 3: Inclusive Employment

Context: People with disabilities have the right to real work for real pay in the community and must be supported to obtain and maintain.

Talking Points:

- Must transition from segregated sheltered workshops and day programs to inclusive employment and inclusive community participation.
- Successful programs like the [Rotary Employment Partnership](#) and [Youth Employment Partnership](#) need sustained and scaled up federal Ready, Willing, and Able (RWA) funding. <https://inclusion.alberta.org/what-we-do/inclusive-employment/>

Our Key Asks:

- Make federal student financial assistance available to students with intellectual disabilities attending inclusive post-secondary programs.
- Fund a national initiative to transform sheltered workshops.
- Resource organizations transitioning to inclusive employment services.
- Prioritize competitive, inclusive employment policies.
- Sustain and grow RWA funding to \$8M/year, expanding the reach of programs like the Rotary Employment Partnership and Youth Employment Partnership.
- Support employer/agency partnerships; promote inclusive hiring.

Questions:

"How will your party increase meaningful, paid jobs for people w/ intellectual disabilities?"

"Will you invest in inclusive employment and moving away from sheltered workshops and any employment that segregates people with intellectual disabilities and does not pay fair wages?"

"Will your party commit to sustaining and increasing funding for RWA, which funds programs like the Rotary Employment Partnership and Youth Employment Partnership?"

Priority 4: Inclusive Affordable Housing

Context: Lack of accessible, affordable, inclusive housing forces segregation and congregated living or homelessness.

Talking Points:

- An [RDSP Home Buyers Plan](https://www.rdsp.com/2020/10/21/the-rdsp-homeownership-plan/) could enable homeownership.
<https://www.rdsp.com/2020/10/21/the-rdsp-homeownership-plan/>

Our Key Asks:

- Introduce an RDSP Home Buyers Plan.

Questions:

"Would you support an RDSP Home Buyers Plan?"

Priority 5: Strengthening Families

Context: Families need financial relief and access to inclusive services like childcare.

Talking Points:

- The Canada Child Disability Benefit (CCDB) needs a significant boost.
- Inclusive Early Learning & Childcare (ELCC) is essential; federal childcare agreements need to prioritize inclusive early learning and childcare.
- Childcare providers need resources, training, and support to welcome and include every child, including those with intellectual and other disabilities (zero expulsions!).

Our Key Asks:

- Double CCDB amounts, raise income thresholds, extend coverage >18.
- Require comprehensive inclusion definitions (per [UNCRPD Art. 24](#)) in Federal/provincial/territorial childcare agreements.
- Allocate targeted funding to enhance ELCC provider capacity for inclusion.
- Establish clear inclusion benchmarks (e.g., zero expulsions, 100% acceptance).

Questions:

"Will your party commit to significantly increasing the CCDB?"

"How will you ensure federal childcare funds guarantee truly inclusive spaces?"

"What steps will your party take to ensure childcare providers can include all children?"

Template Letter A: Meeting Request

Subject: Meeting Request: Inclusion Canada Priorities - [Your Name], Constituent in [Your Riding Name]

Dear [Mr./Ms./Mx. Candidate Last Name],

My name is [Your Name], a constituent in [Your Riding Name]. I'm writing to request a brief meeting to discuss issues vital to people with intellectual disabilities and their families, based on Inclusion Canada's "Stronger Together: 2025 Federal Election Priorities."

I am [mention connection, e.g., member of X Association, parent, self-advocate]. I'd value 15-20 minutes (virtual or in-person) to discuss priorities like [mention 1-2 key areas, e.g., the Canada Disability Benefit and repealing Track 2 MAiD].

Please let me know what time might work. You can view the priorities here: [Link if available, or offer to send].

Sincerely,

[Your Name] | [Email] | [Postal Code] | [Phone - Optional]

Template Letter B: Thank You / Follow-Up

Subject: Thank You - Meeting on Inclusion Canada Priorities - [Your Name]

Dear [Mr./Ms./Mx. Candidate Last Name],

Thank you for meeting with me today/yesterday regarding Inclusion Canada's priorities for people with intellectual disabilities.

I appreciated discussing [mention a specific topic, e.g., ensuring an adequate Canada Disability Benefit]. [Optional: "I was encouraged by your commitment to X..." or "As promised, here is info on Y: [Link]"].

We need strong advocates in Parliament and look forward to seeing how you/your party address these issues.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] | [Email]

Reporting Back: Your Feedback is Vital

After contacting/meeting a candidate, please fill out our quick feedback survey. Inclusion Alberta will share this information with Inclusion Canada to coordinate our national strategy.

- **Link:** <https://forms.office.com/r/X1WwxPk7cr>

- **Confidentiality:** Your individual responses are confidential and used by Inclusion Alberta and shared with Inclusion Canada solely for strategic planning and tracking engagement.

Aggregated, anonymized insights may be shared.

- **Why:** Helps us understand candidate positions nationally, tailor advocacy, and identify allies.

Your opinion matters. Thank you for advocating for a more inclusive Canada!