SAMPLE LETTER TO MLA

Changes to AISH and creation of the

Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP)

***This letter is intended to serve as a template that can be tailored using your family’s experience.* *Please consider adding your and/or your families’ experiences to further support your advocacy in this section.***

**Dear MLA** [*Paste name*]

I am writing to request the opportunity to meet with you to tell you about the impact the changes to AISH and creation of the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) will have on *[me or the people with disabilities in my life].* Please do not refer me to Minister Nixon’s office for them to send me a form letter response. You are my elected representative and I need to meet with you.

In August, the Ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services released the ADAP Discussion Guide which announced that all adults with disabilities who receive AISH be moved to the new Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) effective July 1, 2026, with a benefit that will be $200 per month lower. This 10% cut will worsen an already desperate situation for Albertans on AISH, already below Canada’s poverty line. This follows the [clawback of the $200/month Canada Disability Benefit](https://inclusionalberta.org/canada-disability-benefit-in-alberta-the-facts-and-how-to-take-action/) and the [$220/month rent hike for AISH tenants](https://inclusionalberta.org/connections/media-release-the-difference-between-almost-living-and-barely-existing-on-the-heels-of-previous-cuts-alberta-government-raises-rent-by-63-for-aish-tenants-in-community-housing/).

While making three consecutive decisions that reduced financial support for adults with disabilities, the government addressed rising living costs by approving pay increases over four years—20% for nurses and 12% for teachers and AUPE members. MLAs increased their own housing allowance by 14% this year from $1,930 to $2,200. People with disabilities are being pushed into desperate poverty as costs for basic necessities continue increasing at an even faster rate than the Consumer Price Index. Disability-related expenses, estimated at 20% above normal living costs, make the impact even worse.

While ADAP claims to reward work, it actually lowers the fully exempt employment income from $1,072/month under AISH to just $350/month. The reduced exemption means that many people with employment will be financially worse off whether they are on ADAP or the new AISH.

The new funding for employment supports that is being introduced at the same time as ADAP may help some but will not be enough to help tens of thousands of adults with disabilities overcome systemic and attitudinal job market barriers or Alberta’s highest unemployment rate since the pandemic.

Most people with disabilities would welcome policy changes and employment supports that achieve government’s stated goal of supporting them to “pursue fulfilling job opportunities.” Both increasing the extent to which people with disabilities on AISH keep their employment earnings and medical benefits, and offering enhanced employment supports could be accomplished without cutting benefits, creating a new administrative apparatus to administer a new program, expending healthcare resources reassessing individuals, and burdening individuals with disabilities with navigating a new adjudication process to re-prove their disability status.

I have attached a [Whitepaper on the Proposed Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP)](https://inclusionalberta.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/VanderLeek-Law-Whitepaper-on-proposed-ADAP.pdf) published by [VanderLeek Law](https://vanderleeklaw.ca/) that explains ADAP based on information released to the public by the government.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from your office to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

[*add signatures*]

[*add cc list as appropriate*]