

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities often have more complicated health needs and health issues than people without disabilities.
- Canada agreed to follow the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (2010), which says **people with disabilities have the right to the highest standard of health, without discrimination.**
- The Ministry of Health is responsible for making sure everyone has accessible and good quality healthcare no matter where they are in BC, but there hasn't been enough action, collaboration, or investment, to make this happen.

Key Challenges

- There are **not enough healthcare professionals** who understand the health needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, especially in rural, remote, or Indigenous communities.
- Health Services for Community Living have not kept pace with the growing need for services, putting people's health and well-being at risk.
- **Healthcare services are inadequate** due to:
 - Disputes between Health Authorities and Community Living BC about who is responsible, and who should pay for healthcare services.
 - A lack of data collection.
 - No provincially coordinated education/ practice guidance for Health Services for Community Living practitioners and healthcare providers.
 - No provincial oversight of healthcare delivery or healthcare policy.

How to Make People's Lives Better

Improve Access to Healthcare

- Fully fund the development and implementation of a **Healthcare Strategy**, including data collection, to better understand and meet the health needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in BC.
- Create a plan to **increase the capacity of general practitioners and attract medical specialists** with expertise in the healthcare of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.

Strengthen Community-based Health Supports

- **Strengthen the Health Services for Community Living** to ensure access to adequate health planning and community nursing supports.

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

[Technical Version](#)

[Plain Language Version](#)