

Access to Housing for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities want a safe and secure home of their own, where they have choice and control over day-to-day decisions, long-term security, and access to supports.
- Canada agreed to follow the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (2010), which says **people with disabilities have the same rights to housing as others**, including choosing where and who to live with, owning or renting a home, and their having choices, belongings, and privacy respected.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness in Canada.

Key Challenges

- Over 5,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities need housing in BC, but there is a **lack of affordable and accessible housing**. This is an even greater challenge for Indigenous people who face more barriers.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities who work are likely to earn less than \$20,000 a year, which does not qualify them for most rent-geared-to-income programs.
- The rental gap to access market housing ranges from roughly \$800 to \$1,400 per month for low-income earners in our province.
- Persons with Disabilities (PWD) recipients get \$500 per month for housing. **\$500 does not provide fair access to housing in BC.**
- The availability of subsidized housing (\$500 per month) is significantly lower than demand across all areas of the province.

How to Make People's Lives Better

- **Create a Provincial Disability Strategy** that adopts an inclusive definition of affordable housing across the province, with steps to:
 - Increase the supply and diversity of available housing options, to **ensure access to accessible, inclusive, and culturally safe housing** in people's communities.
 - Expand the mix of housing choices that are **available and affordable to people with low and low-to-moderate incomes**, and set measurable targets.
 - Understand and respond to **ongoing housing and affordability pressures** for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Inclusion BC (November 2024), Inclusive Housing Initiative City of Chilliwack Community Snapshot,
online: [SPARC-Inclusion-BC-Infographic-City-of-Chilliwack_C.pdf](#)

Community Living BC and Inclusion BC (2020), A Report on Inclusive Housing Needs in BC 2020,
online: [Final-Report-Digital.pdf](#)