

April 9, 2025

Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
PO Box 9058 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC

Re: Meeting request to address income security of people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families

Dear Minister Malcolmson:

On behalf of Inclusion BC, I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss opportunities to improve income security for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families in British Columbia.

Inclusion BC is a provincial federation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and community organizations working together to advance human rights and social inclusion. We are committed to ensuring that all people and their families can live with dignity and have access to the support they need to thrive.

We have recently released two position statements that we believe align with the goals of the [2024 BC Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) and that outline concrete, achievable actions to improve income security in our province:

1. [Income Security for Families Raising Children and Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
2. [Income Security for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

We respectfully ask for your attention to the following calls to action highlighted in these statements:

- **Ensure a definition of affordability that reflects the realities of people living in poverty**, and that includes the additional costs related to having a disability - such as healthcare, accessible housing, and other essential supports.
- **Allow for individualized and stackable benefits** so that people can combine supports without fear of clawbacks. For example, enabling the shelter allowance to be combined with other housing benefits can significantly close the gap in housing affordability.
- **Establish a provincial mechanism to collect disaggregated data** on children and youth with disabilities to understand the financial well-being of families and to set effective, measurable poverty reduction targets.

inclusion BC

- **Make permanent the 25% increase to the BC Family Benefit**, recognizing its impact on reducing child and family poverty.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to share more about our work and explore how Inclusion BC can support the Ministry's efforts to reduce poverty and increase equity for people with disabilities across the province.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and commitment to building a more inclusive British Columbia. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-777-9100 ext. 516 or kverschoor@inclusionbc.org.

Sincerely,



Karla Verschoor, Executive Director
Inclusion BC