



CALEDON
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL POLICY

DISABILITY POLICY COORDINATION

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POLICY CONTEXT

Key Developments 1981-2005

- Obstacles
- National Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities
- Mainstream Review
- Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Status of Disabled Persons
- Task Force on Disability Issues
- Federal-Provincial Working Group
- Future Directions

POLICY CONTEXT

Key Developments 2006-2015

- ratification of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Labour Market Development Agreements
- post-secondary educational grants
- Opportunities Fund
- Enabling Accessibility Fund
- Registered Disability Savings Plan
- Working Income Tax Benefit

POLICY CONTEXT

Future Directions

- new federal Minister of Disability
- few references to disability in the Liberal platform
- unclear set of priorities
- good opportunity to help shape that direction

COORDINATION

Building blocks

- income security
- disability supports
- labour market programs

Challenges

- within policy domains
- between policy domains
- within jurisdictions
- between jurisdictions

COORDINATION

Income programs

- the disability income system is a ‘patchwork’ of uncoordinated programs
 - it is composed of categorical programs, social insurance, private insurance and social assistance
 - each program operates as an independent system
- eligibility and benefits are based on cause of disability – how and why the disability occurred – rather than level of need
- people with the same functional capacity can receive different types and levels of benefit

COORDINATION

Disability supports

- complex system: provinces/territories are responsible for financing disability supports; not-for-profit organizations and small private companies typically deliver the services
- workers' compensation may provide/arrange for relevant disability supports required for employment
- ministries of education may provide disability supports required for education
- health-related aids/equipment and services generally are provided through various health settings
- supports that tend to be more social in nature, such as homemaker services, may fall under social services

COORDINATION

Labour market programs

- labour market programs not coordinated
- labour market programs typically not sufficiently linked sufficiently to disability supports
- disability-related employment programs tend to be segregated rather than integrated within mainstream programs

POLICY OPTIONS

Improve coordination

- within policy domains
- between policy domains
- between jurisdictions
- between/among policy domains and jurisdictions

POLICY OPTIONS

Improve coordination within policy domains

Example: disability supports

- simplify program structure and access
- single-entry point
- navigation assistance
- modify governance structures

POLICY OPTIONS

Improve coordination between policy domains

Example: basic income and disability supports

- remove persons with disabilities from social assistance
- replace the disability component of social assistance with a federally delivered income-tested benefit
- provinces and territories would be required, under a negotiated agreement, to reinvest their windfall savings in disability supports

POLICY OPTIONS

Improve coordination between jurisdictions

Example: disability supports

- cost-sharing arrangement between the federal and provincial/territorial governments
- provinces and territories would be responsible for delivery
- disability community would help guide the development and governance of this pan-Canadian initiative

POLICY OPTIONS

Improve coordination among policy domains and jurisdictions

Example: income programs, disability supports and labour market programs

- federal-provincial Working Group produced *In Unison*
- integration of three core building blocks
- key strategies:
 - harmonization of income programs
 - coordination of labour market initiatives
 - accountability

POLICY OPTIONS

Improve coordination among policy domains

Example: individualized funding

- the coordination takes place at the ‘demand’ side rather than the ‘supply’ side
- each individual has a unique package of supports and services depending on needs
- difficulties may still arise in negotiating a complex system



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THANK YOU

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