**Day 2 (December 5, 2019):**

**Parallel sessions on strategy implementation**

**Comprehensive supports for persons with disabilities: Report back**

1. **Preventing poverty**

Vision: Persons with disability don’t live below the poverty line

Goals/activities:

* Initiatives to increase income supports, such as childcare and pharmacare programs
* Offer refundable Disability Tax Credits with more inclusive definition of “disability”
  + UFCW and Canadian Council of Disability already working on this activity
* Advocate for basic income program

1. **Unbundling income and employment supports**

Vision: Universal access and coverage related to disability supports are available in all government programs

Goals/activities:

* Ensure voices of persons with disabilities are heard at universal pharmacare table
  + CLC already working on this activity
* Expand pharmacare to include national disability support insurance program, an example of which is already in place in Australia
  + Coalition called Every Canadian Counts already working on this activity

1. **Supporting the school-to-work transition**

Vision: Students have clear pathways to employment, supported by resources and accommodations post-graduation

Goals/activities:

* Compile information about who is doing what already and communicate
* Offer more labour-market information to students with disabilities
  + Already heard from some speakers in yesterday’s parallel sessions about some activities going on: e.g. Carleton U. READ’s David. C. Onley Initiative

1. **Reforming government programs**

Vision: All government programs, tools and services are accessible and inclusive by design

Goals/activities:

* Provide information letting persons with disabilities know when alternative formats are already available
* Develop user-centred tools
  + Canada Revenue Agency working on this activity

1. **Addressing stigma and bias in support programs**

Vision: All persons with disabilities are seen as having valued skills. They are not seen as a charity case, and their capacities are not presumed.

Goals/activities:

* Develop free skills training and supports for persons with disabilities so can do away with wage subsidies.
* Create toolkit showing stories of success.

1. **Developing education and guides for employers and persons with disabilities to communicate with each other**

Vision: Inclusive communication is the norm in workplace environments.

Goals/activities:

* Do inventory of, and communicate about, what already exists
* Develop guides—one for employers and another for employees—based upon best practices
  + Research partnership Accommodating and Communicating about Episodic Disabilities (ACED) working on this activity, as are various health charities

**CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AMONG THE ABOVE GROUPS**

1. **People with lived experience and the organizations representing and advocating for them are identified as key partners in almost all initiatives proposed**

* Do we have a way to ensure these organizations have the resources to be partners in a wide range of initiatives and, if unable, the ability to identify priorities?
* Do we have a way to reach and include people with lived experience who may not be attached to an organization?

1. **Many of the short-term goals included the need, as a first step, to learn about what initiatives, tools, services, etc. are already out there in Canada and, potentially, beyond and then communicate about these in accessible formats**

* Is there a need for a one-stop shop or repository for persons with disabilities and those organizations that serve and support them?

1. **Developing resources for persons with disabilities was often mentioned as a goal or activity.**

* Is this an opportunity for organizations to work together, to combine in such a way that the mores useful and accessible resources are created in collaboration with persons with disabilities?