



Dear Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS),

Thank you for engaging in this critical election. We are grateful for your efforts to ensure Albertans with disabilities have the supports they need, while advocating for the community organizations and workers providing those crucial supports.

Many community organizations are struggling with the strain of increased demand for services and stalled revenues under the UCP. **The Alberta NDP want to do things differently, building trust and a better relationship with the government.**

**To better support organizations like yours, we will provide appropriate funding in a stable and predictable manner to address the impacts of the pandemic and inflation and lack of support for non-profits.** We will collaborate with you to implement better data collection and, perhaps most importantly, support a sector-led workforce strategy to address wage gaps and mental health support for workers. As part of this strategy, we will create an option for non-profits that are interested in delivering a workplace pension and we will assist with admin and operations. We will also create a home-in-government for the sector.

**We will also undertake significant consultation on creating Accessibility and Inclusion legislation.** This law will address issues such as economic participation and access to the built environment as well as government programs.

We will increase funding that will support your member organizations, as well as Albertans with disabilities. The UCP slashed PUF (program unit funding), which provides integrated early learning support for children with medical needs or learning or cognitive disabilities. **We will restore and increase PUF funding**, while also hiring 4,000 more teachers and 3,000 more educational assistants and support staff so all students get the help they need.

**We will make an immediate 50% increase in both Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and Family and Community Safety (FCS) programs, increasing the combined budget from \$160 million to \$240 million.** These grants support non-profits and volunteer organizations that provide social support services, encourage employment, and prevent crisis situations.

There is even more government can do to support low income and vulnerable Albertans. **In 2019, the UCP cut benefits to vulnerable Albertans including the Seniors Benefit, Income Supports and AISH payments.** We will increase benefits to where they should be if they had kept pace with the cost of living, and then index to inflation going forward. We will eliminate discrimination between the Barriers to Full Employment and AISH income support programs.

**We must fix the healthcare crisis for all Albertans, including those with disabilities.**

Currently, 800,000 Albertans are without a family doctor - this has to change. Family doctors are essential to the foundation of our healthcare system; when people have access to



regular check-ups, they have better health outcomes. With the Alberta NDP, if you need a doctor, you will get to see a doctor, in a matter of days, for free and within your communities.

Thank you for sharing your priorities with us ahead of the general election. The Alberta NDP is committed to building a better future for Alberta, and with your help we can make it happen.

The Alberta NDP