

PRIORITY ISSUE

Unleashing Employment Potential



More than 35,000 Manitobans with disabilities between the ages of 15 and 64 are unemployed, underemployed, or have given up their search for meaningful work. The Department of Families Community Living disAbility Service (CLDS) determined that only 5% of CLDS clients in Manitoba earn at least minimum wage and work at least 20 hours per week.

Recent studies demonstrate that people with disabilities rated average or better than their non-disabled colleagues on job performance, attendance, and work safety. Hiring employees with disabilities is a proven investment in retaining experienced staff, increasing productivity, and improving organizational culture.

The Accessibility for Manitobans Act can help remove employment barriers, but standards are not enough, because:

- The design and delivery of some government programs actually discourage people with disabilities from seeking employment.
- Current government systems and services struggle to support peoples' successful transitions from high school to work life.
- Many employers hold misconceptions about the capabilities and potential of people with disabilities.
- Education systems perpetuate low expectations of people with disabilities, which limits access to opportunities and resources.

The Manitoba government must overcome this enormous waste of human and economic potential.



Questions for the Parties

- What is your party's commitment to ensuring equity in employment and in outcomes for Manitobans with disabilities within the government and the broader economy?
- How will you ensure that Manitobans with disabilities are actively and continuously promoted to the business community as valuable contributors to the workforce and economy?