



For Immediate Release

BC Disability Collaborative Urges Action: Stop Failing BC's Children with Disabilities

British Columbia, January 13, 2025 – Families across British Columbia are sounding the alarm: children with disabilities are still being left behind, and the government is not delivering on its promises. Despite Premier David Eby's 2022 assurance that "Every child in BC should have the supports they need to thrive," the stark reality is that critical gaps in services for children and youth with support needs (CYSN) remain unresolved.

The BC Disability Collaborative (BCDC) launched a hard-hitting social media campaign in December to spotlight this urgent crisis, sharing the stories of nine families devastated by the system's failures. These deeply personal accounts have already reached over 20,000 people, revealing the painful truth: these stories could be your stories, and those of your friends and neighbours.

A powerful six-minute video compiling these families' experiences is now online. Watch it here: <https://www.bcdisabilitycollab.ca/i-am-one-of-them-campaign>.

"These families have been clear: the system is broken, and their children are suffering as a result," says Pat Mirenda, Ph.D., Chair of the BC Disability Collaborative. "Government has heard the stories, seen the data, and made the promises. It's time to turn those words into action and deliver the resources and services these children so desperately need. Every day of inaction costs children and families opportunities to thrive."

After years of broken promises and thousands of testimonials from families across the province, the message is clear: BC's CYSN service system is broken. Education, child care, health, and social services sectors are chronically underfunded, leaving children and youth without the essential supports they need.

The time for listening has passed. The BCDC is calling on the government to act now with significant, cross-ministerial investments to fix this broken system. Children and youth with disabilities cannot afford to wait any longer.

Join the movement to demand change by sharing these posts with your friends and neighbours:

- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/bcdisabilitycollaborative/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BCDisabCollab>
- **X (formerly Twitter):** <https://x.com/bcdisabilitycol>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bcdisabilitycollab>
- **Bluesky:** <https://bsky.app/profile/bcdisabilitycollab.bsky.social>

About the BC Disability Collaborative (BCDC)

The BC Disability Collaborative (<https://www.bcdisabilitycollab.ca>) unites 19 provincial organizations committed to ensuring the rights of disabled citizens are upheld, systemic inequities are addressed, and customized services are accessible to all children and youth with support needs and their families.

For further information, contact:
Pat Mirenda, Ph.D., BCDC Chair
Email: admin@bcdisabilitycollab.ca