



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 26, 2025**

**BC’s Service Delivery for Disabled Citizens is Broken, says the BC Disability Collaborative**

**British Columbia** – Since the beginning of 2025, media attention has intensified around the dire circumstances faced by disabled children, youth, and adults across British Columbia. The newly created graphic above represents a systemic failure that stretches across the entire province. These are not random occurrences – they are a direct reflection of chronic breakdowns in the province’s service systems for disabled citizens.

For years, families have been sounding the alarm, sharing countless testimonials of the hardships they endure. They’ve been met with promises, but little has changed. The stark reality is that BC's service system for disabled citizens is severely broken. The education, child care, health, and social services sectors have been chronically underfunded for too long, leaving people with disabilities without the essential supports they urgently need.

Unfortunately, the 2025 provincial budget did little to address these gaps. Instead, funding has been allocated primarily to address overburdened caseloads and negotiated wage increases for workers – but

there is no meaningful investment in enhancing services or meeting the fundamental needs of disabled citizens.

“The time for empty promises and listening without action has passed. The BC Disability Collaborative (BCDC) and our 18 provincial organizations are calling on the government to take immediate and bold action to address the overwhelming gaps in service. These families can no longer wait for change—they need support now,” says Pat Mirinda, Ph.D., BCDC Chair,

Earlier this year, the BCDC launched a powerful and hard-hitting social media campaign to bring attention to this crisis. The campaign, titled *I Am One of Them*, shares the deeply personal stories of nine families who have been devastated by the service system’s failures. You can view their heartbreaking accounts here: <https://www.bcdisabilitycollab.ca/i-am-one-of-them-campaign>. These stories do not just reflect isolated instances; they are a harsh reminder that these experiences could be happening to anyone – including your own friends, family, and neighbors.

“For too long, people with disabilities in BC have been ignored, left to struggle in a system that has failed them at every turn,” says Mirinda. “This is not just a call for more funding, but for a complete overhaul of how we provide care and services. We demand a system that values the dignity and well-being of all citizens, regardless of their abilities.”

The time for passive listening has passed. The BC Disability Collaborative is once again calling on the provincial government to take bold action, with significant, cross-ministerial investments, to fix this broken system. The government must prioritize systemic change, ensuring that people with disabilities receive the support and care they deserve.

### **Join the Movement for Change**

Stand with us in demanding change. Share these posts and spread the word within your community. Together, we can make our voices heard and urge the government to finally take meaningful steps to address this urgent crisis.

- **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>

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### **About the BC Disability Collaborative (BCDC)**

The BC Disability Collaborative (<https://www.bcdisabilitycollab.ca/>) unites 18 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.