

# It Was Never Okay: Forward, Not Backward

Take Action to Ensure a Better Future for Canadians with Down Syndrome

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Canada is built on the belief that everyone deserves the chance to thrive—including people with Down syndrome. Yet recently, we are seeing troubling steps backward. Government decisions threaten to undo the progress our community has worked tirelessly to achieve.

**Lack of funding, exclusion from essential programs, and barriers to full participation in society have never been okay. And in 2025, we refuse to go backward.**

Canadians with Down syndrome deserve the same access to basic rights and opportunities as everyone else. It's time for action, not excuses. We're calling on the leaders of government to prioritize the following initiatives:

- » **Education:** Co-design a new funding model for provinces to increase classroom support for students with Down syndrome.
- » **Healthcare:** Launch a national initiative to expand specialized training and research for healthcare professionals working with individuals with Down syndrome.
- » **Employment:** Implement a national strategy to protect people with Down syndrome from losing disability benefits when they seek work.
- » **Housing:** Establish a national housing benefit to allow individuals with Down syndrome to access living arrangements that support their independence.
- » **Recreation:** Create a Self-Advocate Advisory Council to increase participation for people with Down syndrome in sports, recreation, and the arts.

**We refuse to take a single step backward.** Sign the petition and tell the government it was never okay to overlook the rights of people with Down syndrome. The time for change is NOW.

1. Sign the petition.
2. Share this message with your friends and family.
3. Raise awareness about the barriers faced by people with Down syndrome.

**Let's move forward, not backward in 2025**

