

## **IN FROM THE MARGINS: A CALL TO ACTION ON POVERTY, HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS**

The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Report of the Subcommittee on Cities

### ***Recommendations related to disability***

#### **Recommendation 12**

The Committee recommends that the federal government expand EI sickness benefits over time to 50 weeks, to provide appropriate support for eligible beneficiaries experiencing medium-term illnesses or disabilities.

#### **Recommendation 21**

To redress the under-representation of low-income people from some groups, e.g., Aboriginal people and people with disabilities, among students in post-secondary education, the Committee recommends that the federal government offer additional tax support for post-secondary education targeted to these students and their families.

#### **Recommendation 24**

The Committee recommends that the federal government set aside a fixed percentage of training positions (to match the percentage established for federal employment equity targets) for persons with disabilities in all renewing and new labour market agreements.

#### **Recommendation 50**

The Committee recommends that the federal government, at the next meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Labour, take a leadership role in encouraging a harmonization of provincial and territorial workers' compensation programs.

#### **Recommendation 51**

The Committee recognizes the importance of support services for persons with disabilities entering jobs, and that these supports are often lost when employment earnings begin. 133 Therefore, the Committee recommends that provincial and territorial governments extend these supports for up to 12 months following employment to persons with disabilities leaving social assistance, and that these governments negotiate with employers to provide these supports indefinitely for those earning low incomes.

#### **Recommendation 52**

The Committee recommends that the Government make the Disability Tax Credit refundable.

#### **Recommendation 53**

The Committee recommends that the federal government develop and implement a basic income guarantee at or above LICO for people with severe disabilities.

#### **Recommendation 54**

The Committee recommends that provincial and territorial governments use the savings realized in social assistance spending with the introduction of the basic income guarantee for people with severe disabilities to redesign and enhance delivery of disability supports to all persons with disabilities, regardless of the source of their incomes.

**Recommendation 55**

The Committee recommends that the federal government sustain and increase the funding for the Opportunities Fund for persons with disabilities, with a clear mission to address barriers to the labour force.

**Recommendation 56**

The Committee recommends that all provincial and territorial governments amend their social assistance legislation to exempt savings under the Disability Savings Plan from any asset depletion requirements with respect to qualifications for or benefits from social assistance and social services programs.

**Recommendation 57**

Until mainstream training programs provide training opportunities for persons with disabilities proportionate to their representation in the population, the Committee recommends that the federal government extend and expand funding for such training through the Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities.