*Insert the politicians name, ward/riding or role (ministry)*

*Date*

Dear *Honourable name inserted here*,

Statistics Canada reported in 2017 that 3.7 million working-age Canadians identified as having a disability and that only three in five (59%) were employed[[1]](#footnote-1). Despite the great strides made to diversify the Canadian workforce in recent years, COVID has substantially worsened the situation. Currently approximately 1 million Canadians experiencing disability are unemployed, underemployed, or underutilized. Given current workforce shortages, Canadian employers coast to coast urgently require the skills, education, and experience of this untapped talent resource.

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM). DEAM has its origins in the US starting as far back as 1945. It was introduced in Canada many years later and by 2000, had gained significant momentum and continues to engage, educate, and raise awareness about inclusive employment today. In fact, many provinces began proclaiming DEAM over a decade ago, with Manitoba proclaiming DEAM in 2010, Saskatchewan in 2011, and Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario shortly thereafter.

We are writing to ask that your government formally proclaim October as Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) to make clear your commitment to employment equity. Together, we can make Canadian workplaces as diverse as our communities by ensuring that all Canadians have equal opportunity to full citizenship, social inclusion, and sustained, meaningful employment.

On behalf of *[insert your organization’s name*], we appreciate your time and consideration of our request. We look forward to continued dialog with you about ways to increase employment equity in Canada.

Yours Sincerely,

*Your name/ title Your organization Address*

*Email and phone number*

*(Cc any relevant politicians or organizations)*

1. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2018002-eng.htm#a9>

   <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/200827/dq200827c-eng.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)