

Canadian Association for Supported Employment 2026 Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM)

Sample Letter for Government Representative

Notes:

- Place on your organization's letterhead.
- Replace yellow highlighted areas with your information.

Politician's name

Ward/riding or title (Example: Premier)

Ministry or department (if applicable)

Date

Dear Honourable (name),

One in five working-age persons in the labour force in Canada have some form of disability ([StatCan](#), 2022). Disability can be non-apparent, like arthritis and chronic pain. It can be temporary or episodic, like a migraine, anxiety, or grief.

In 2024, the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities rose to 8.1%, compared to 5.6% for persons without disabilities. The wage gap also widened due to more part-time work and slower wage growth ([StatCan](#), 2025).

Yet, in May 2026, almost 545,000 jobs were vacant across the country ([StatCan](#)). Particularly as our population ages and more people retire, employers across the country urgently require the skills of the more than 740,000 persons experiencing disability who have the potential to work ([StatCan](#), 2022).

Diverse and inclusive workplace cultures benefit all workers by cultivating a more positive and supportive work environment. Companies that improve disability recruitment, hiring, and retention accrue benefits within their workplace culture with increased problem-solving and creativity and with higher overall retention and engagement ([Accenture, Disability:IN and AAPD, 2023](#)).

October is **Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM)**. In 2010, DEAM was first proclaimed in Manitoba. Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, and PEI followed in the ensuing

years. Today, DEAM is an important recognition that engages, educates, and raises awareness about inclusive employment across Canada.

We are writing to ask that your government:

1. Formally proclaim October Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) to make clear your government's commitment to employment equity.
2. Demonstrate your support for diverse and inclusive workplaces that bolster the Canadian economy by asking the federal government to proclaim every October Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM).

Together, we can make Canadian workplaces as diverse as our communities — and increase resilience — by ensuring that all persons experiencing disability in Canada have equal opportunity to obtain, retain, and advance in competitive employment.

On behalf of (your organization's name), we appreciate your time and consideration of our request, and we look forward to continued dialogue with you on this very important issue.

Sincerely,