

inclusion • equal opportunity • recognition



Presentation to Standing Committee on Community Services

May 4, 2010

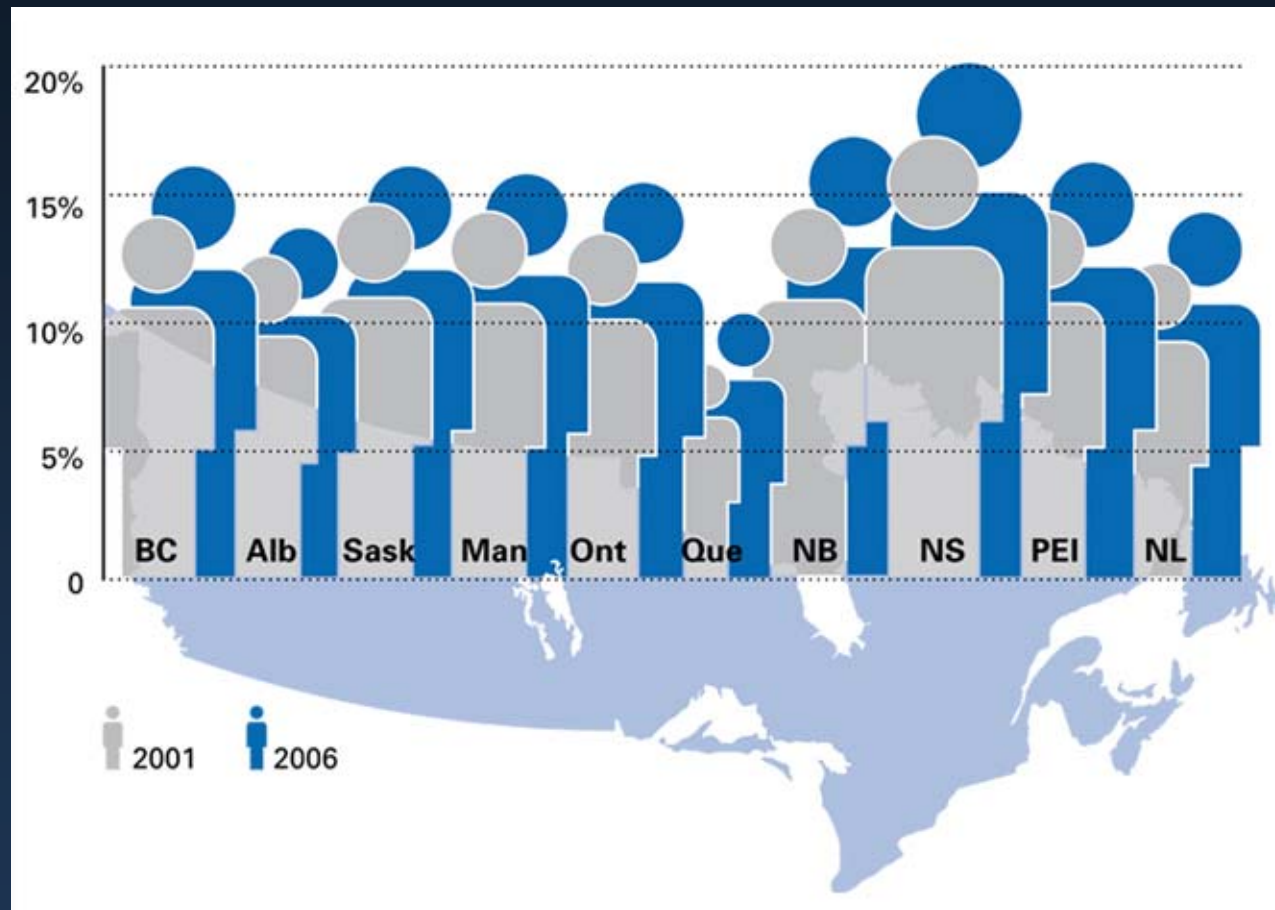
Disabled Persons Commission

- established in 1989
- governed by the Disabled Persons Act.

Disabled Persons Act

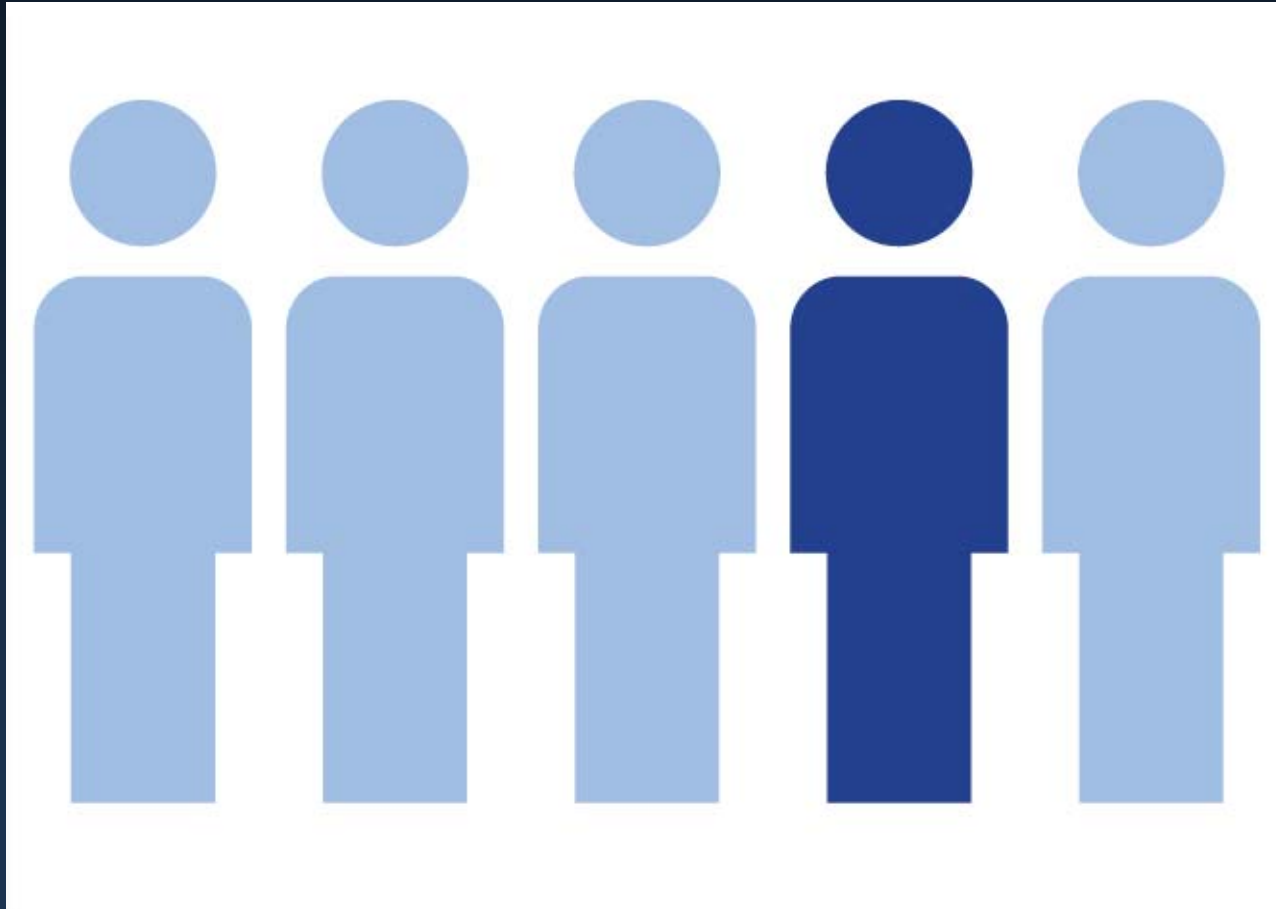
- ***Provide*** an opportunity for persons with disabilities to have a role in the development of government policies and programs that affect persons with disabilities.
- ***Provide*** a central place for the concerns of persons with disabilities to be shared and passed on to the appropriate provincial government department.
- ***Provide*** an opportunity for provincial government departments to make the disability community aware of policies, programs and services that they are developing for persons with disabilities.

Prevalence of Disability in Canada and the Provinces



Source: Statistics Canada,
PALS 2001, 2006

One in five Nova Scotians identifies themselves as having a disability



Source: Statistics Canada,
PALS 2001, 2006

Disabled Persons Commission

- 12 members
- 7 disability community representatives
- 5 departmental representatives

Composition of the Commission

- Community members: Yarmouth, Wolfville, Halifax, Truro, Pictou, and Sydney
- Government reps: Community Services, Education, Health, Labour and Workforce Development and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

Coordinating Committee of Ministers

- Meet twice a year
- Advise 5 ministers on issues
- Ministers educate the Commission on programs and services

Vision

- Our **vision** is to be a leader in the areas of education and awareness, accessibility, research and policy analysis, and the employability of Nova Scotians with disabilities.

Mission

- Our **mission** is to support the social and economic inclusion of Nova Scotians with disabilities

Our Values

- The **inclusion** of people with disabilities as active decision makers at all levels of government and in the corporate and voluntary sectors;
- **equal opportunity** and universal access to the physical environment, services, and information for people with disabilities and:
- the **recognition** that people with disabilities make valuable contributions to a healthy, diverse society

5 Priority Areas

- 1. Administrative Capacity**
- 2. Information, Education and Awareness**
- 3. Building and Dwelling Accessibility**
- 4. Research, Policy Analysis and Partnership related to disability supports**
- 5. Employability of persons with disabilities.**

Administrative Capacity

- To improve upon our administrative capacity by continuing to find ways to increase the number of staff who work at the Commission.

Information, Awareness, Education

Increase the visibility of the Disabled Persons Commission and make the disability community, government and the general public, better aware of the issues, programs and services available to and concerning persons with disabilities.

Building and Dwelling Accessibility

Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to provincial government buildings and Nova Scotia becomes more accessible to residents and visitors.

Research, Policy Analysis and Partnership – Disability Supports

- Continue to be an active participant in research, policy analysis and partnership development to ensure that persons with disabilities have adequate levels of support to fully participate in their communities.

Employability of Persons with Disabilities

- Promote a continuum of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities that include paid employment, supported employment and volunteering

Questions?