

Support for Islanders with Disabilities

Persons living with disabilities are often at greater risk to experience poverty. Government is committed to providing programs and services to assist persons living with disabilities. Investments are being made in home care services, educational supports to students, employment services, transportation, medication coverage and important initiatives such as the Disability Support Program.

Approximately 1,500 Islanders, or about 1% of the population, receive DSP.

About half of DSP clients also receive Social Assistance.

Government continues to improve disability supports in several ways.

Recognizing the key role that non-government organizations (NGOs) play in providing valuable services to persons living with disabilities, provincial government funding to NGOs has increased by \$630,000 since 2007.

Through a \$675,000 investment which eliminated required parental contributions in 2007, families are now better able to provide for disability related needs of their dependent children.

In 2007, DSP ceilings were increased by \$100 through a \$433,000 provincial investment.

The province has increased the number of affordable housing units for persons with disabilities by 128 since 2007.

Improvements have been made to the Charlottetown transit system to increase accessibility for persons with physical disabilities.

The province continues to support employment of persons with disabilities through programs such as *Work Abilities* and *Discovering the Power in Me*.

A Disability Services Review was carried out in 2009 to inform government, the community and stakeholders on improving outcomes and services for persons with disabilities. Government continues to work with the Disability Action Council to address the recommendations.

In addition to the \$11.3 million provided to assist persons with disabilities through the DSP this year, government provides support through many other departments; for example, more than \$4 million will be provided this year by Education and Early Childhood Development to support children and students with special needs.

DSP Annual Funding

