



Environmental Health Association of Canada
Association pour la santé environnementale du Canada



Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec
Environmental Health Association of Québec

Saint-Sauveur, April 10, 2025

Subject: Urgent Call for Action: Implement the UN Concluding Observations & Establish a Ministry for Disability

We are writing to you on behalf of the Environmental Health Association of Canada and the Environmental Health Association of Québec, and in solidarity with individuals and communities across Canada living with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS).

We urge you to take bold and immediate action to address the systemic barriers faced by people with disabilities in our country, particularly in light of the [Concluding Observations](#) issued in March 2025 by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities following Canada's review under the Convention.

The Committee's findings were clear and deeply concerning: Canada must do more to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, including those living with the lesser-known, but increasingly prevalent, medical disability of MCS. The recommendations span across critical sectors—housing, health care, employment, education, access to justice, and inclusive public spaces—and they call for a coordinated national approach grounded in rights, equity, and dignity.

To meaningfully act on these obligations, we call on you to:

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1. Establish a Minister for Disability and a dedicated Ministry for Disability Inclusion (*Minister of Diversity, inclusion and Persons with Disabilities*)

A disability lens must be applied across all federal departments and programs. This cannot be achieved without centralized leadership and accountability. Canada needs a permanent, empowered voice at the Cabinet table—one that brings lived experience, intersectional awareness, and the capacity to drive real systems change.

2. Develop a National Action Plan in response to the UN Concluding Observations

Canada's commitments must not remain words on paper. A transparent, time-bound action plan co-developed with disability communities—especially those living with invisible and environmental disabilities—must guide the way forward, with concrete measures on accessible housing, equitable health care, income support, and protection from discrimination.

3. Include Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) across all federal programs and policies

Over 1.13 million Canadians have a diagnosis of MCS, recognized by the Canadian Human Rights Commission and protected under the Canadian Human Rights Act as a disability since 2007. And yet, they remain excluded from most policy and health systems. Individuals with MCS are regularly denied safe housing, access to scent-free health care, and workplace accommodations. The UN Committee has now named MCS in its formal report—Canada must respond with leadership and ensure that MCS is meaningfully included across all areas of federal policy.

Currently, there is no education on MCS in Canadian medical schools or training for physicians, resulting in harmful gaps in diagnosis, treatment, and care. People living with MCS are too often dismissed, misdiagnosed, or left without access to essential services. This neglect must be addressed as part of any comprehensive disability and health care strategy.

We know that leadership means listening to lived experience, working alongside communities, and implementing solutions, not years from now, but today. We invite you to stand with us and help make Canada a global leader in disability rights and inclusion.

There is no equity without disability justice. And there is no accessibility without clean air, safe housing, and inclusive health care for all.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly and support your platform in delivering on this critical work. Most importantly, we ask for a clear response: how will your government act on the UN's recommendations and ensure MCS is finally recognized, understood, and addressed across systems?



With respect and urgency,

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