

Mothering and DisAbility

Mothers make up the vast majority of custodial parents in Canada and experience economic insecurity based on challenges which include maintaining paid work while also caring for their children and difficulties finding affordable child care.



One third of all women with disabilities live below the poverty line

Up to 75% are unemployed.



These challenges are exacerbated for single mothers with disabilities.

Canadian research has found that mothers with a mental health diagnosis were three times more likely to have been involved with the child protection system than mothers without a diagnosis.

3x



Mothers with a range of impairments have reported that health professionals have suggested immediate termination of the fetus upon learning of their pregnancies.



Once women with disabilities become mothers, many experience the threatened and actual loss of their children, as well as barriers for adoption, bringing their children home from the hospital, and maintaining custody of their children after a separation or divorce.



As a result of these challenges, many mothers with disabilities report “doing without” home care support of any kind, or are forced to rely on informal supports such as family members and friends.



While a handful of parenting assistance programs exist, Canadian mothers with disabilities report that access is limited due to long waiting lists, inadequate funding, and limits to the duration of services.

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