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The Honourable Carla Qualtrough,  
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion  
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Please include ME/FM in the 2023/4 plans for Disability

We are asking that the 2023/4 plans for disability include actions to address the inadequate attention currently being paid to Canadians disabled by Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Fibromyalgia.

According to Statistics Canada's Canadian Community Health Survey, around one million Canadians have a diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome (an old name for ME), FM or both. A wave of new ME/FM cases is coming as a result of Long-Covid.

The survey shows that the ME/FM community experiences high levels of poverty, food insecurity and social isolation. These important indicators of social distress are a result of gaps in the health and disability systems.

Despite meeting the concept of disability found in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in the Accessible Canada Act, many laws, policies, programs, services and structures still do not consider the type of disability experienced by people with ME and FM.

We hope that the government's disability plans for 2023/4 will include an examination of the disability needs of this overlooked segment of the disability community and that this leads to corrective action.

Yours truly

Margaret Parlor  
President

cc

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