

[Your name] [Address] [Email] · [Phone]

[Date]

[Recipient name / organization] [Address]

Re: Urgent — the AISH-to-ADAP transition and the foreseeable, and now realized, harm to disabled Albertans. Request for [legal assistance / investigation / intervention / coverage].

Dear [Recipient],

I am writing to bring you a documented and, I believe, legally actionable concern about the Government of Alberta's transition of disability income support from the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program to the Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP), which took effect July 2, 2026.

What happened. On July 2, 2026, the Government automatically moved tens of thousands of people — from a caseload of approximately 79,290 already medically determined unable to work — onto the lower-paying, work-conditioned ADAP, **without any individual reassessment**. The change reverses the onus so that people already found unable to work must reapply and undergo a fresh medical assessment to keep their benefit; cuts monthly income by \$200 (cushioned only by a temporary \$200/month transition benefit payable from August 2026 to December 2027); and **removes the independent right of appeal** from the medical-eligibility (AISH-vs-ADAP placement) determination: that determination is made by the AISH Medical Review Panel and is final and not appealable. The independent Citizens' Appeal Panel continues to hear other, non-medical benefit appeals. The employment-conditionality apparatus has been outsourced to multinational contractors — AKG Canada (\$47M) and Serco Canada (\$51M).

Why this is not speculative. This design closely replicates the United Kingdom's work-capability and conditionality regime, which:

- was found by a UN inquiry to have caused “grave or systematic violations” of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016);
- was linked by coroners to individual deaths — including a finding that a “fit for work” assessment was the “trigger” for a person's suicide;
- coincided, on the Government's own data, with 2,650 people dying after being assessed “fit for work” (Dec 2011–Feb 2014); and
- was independently associated in peer-reviewed research with an estimated additional 590 suicides.

Comparable systems in Australia (the Robodebt Royal Commission found an analogous automated, onus-reversing scheme “neither fair nor legal”) and the United States (the Arkansas Medicaid work-requirement natural experiment stripped coverage from 18,000+ eligible people with no employment gain) confirm the pattern.

The harm has already begun in Alberta. On June 8, 2026, Bruce Johnson, 57, of Empress, Alberta, is believed to have died by suicide, leaving a written message attributing his deterioration to this transition and to his fear of being forced into employment activity despite a disabling condition. Alberta's own physicians, through the Alberta Medical Association, have publicly documented the distress the change is causing.

What I am providing. Enclosed are four documents prepared to support legal, human-rights, and international action:

1. **A Charter Challenge** (draft Originating Application, ss. 7 and 15);
2. **A submission to the United Nations** on violations of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
3. **A complaint to the Alberta Human Rights Commission** (services / duty to accommodate); and
4. **A Comparative Evidence of Harm dossier** — the cited evidentiary spine, drawn from the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, with a strict correlation-vs-causation discipline.

What I am asking of you. [Choose: to review these materials and advise on / take carriage of a constitutional challenge · to open an investigation · to intervene or add your organization's voice · to cover this story · to receive this as a formal submission.] I am ready to provide affidavits, correspondence, and further documentation, and to connect you with affected individuals and physicians willing to speak.

People already found too disabled to work are being defaulted onto a lesser program and made to prove their incapacity again, with no independent appeal and with a documented, foreseeable risk to life. We were told to wait until there was proof of harm. There is proof of harm. I am asking for your help before there is more.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[Your name] [Title / role — e.g., advocate / family member / affected recipient]

Enclosures: (0) this letter; (1) Charter Challenge; (2) UN CRPD Submission; (3) Alberta Human Rights Complaint; (4) Comparative Evidence of Harm Dossier.

Source Index

Alberta ADAP / AISH — program and facts

- Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP), Government of Alberta — <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-disability-assistance-program>
- How to apply for AISH and ADAP, Government of Alberta — <https://www.alberta.ca/how-to-apply-for-aish-and-adap>

- Financial Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2025 (Bill 12), creating ADAP — https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill-012.pdf
- Understanding ADAP — Enough for All / Vibrant Communities Calgary — <https://enoughforall.ca/articles/understanding-adap-albertas-new-disability-program>
- Multinational contractors managing Alberta’s new disability employment system (AKG Canada; Serco Canada) — CBC News — <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/adap-multinational-contractor-aish-alberta-changes-9.7249421>
- Recipients of Alberta’s new disability program worry it will be detrimental — CBC News — <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-adap-aish-transition-9.7255041>
- Pushing back against changes that make life harder for disabled Albertans — Alberta Doctors’ Digest (AMA) — <https://add.albertadoctors.org/issues/november-december-2025/pushing-back-against-changes-make-life-harder-disabled-albertans/>

Bruce Johnson

- Alberta man who is believed to have died by suicide blamed AISH-to-ADAP transition — Global News — <https://globalnews.ca/news/11906553/alberta-suicide-aish-adap/>
- Danielle Smith addresses disability benefits following death of AISH recipient — CTV News — <https://www.ctvnews.ca/calgary/article/danielle-smith-addresses-disability-benefits-following-death-of-aish-recipient/>

Comparative evidence — complete source list

United Kingdom

- UN CRPD inquiry into the UK, CRPD/C/15/R.2/Rev.1 (2016) — <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRPD/CRPD.C.15.R.2.Rev.1-ENG.doc>
- Coroner finding, Michael O’Sullivan (WCA “trigger” for suicide) — <https://politicsandinsights.org/2015/09/22/fit-for-work-assessment-was-trigger-for-suicide-coroner-says/>
- Coroner Prevention of Future Deaths warning, Stephen Carré (2010) — <https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/wca-death-scandal-dwp-and-atos-killed-my-son/>
- Jodey Whiting (Independent Case Examiner 2019; second inquest 2025) — <https://www.leighday.co.uk/news/press-releases/2025-news/coroner-finds-stopping-benefits-triggered-the-death-of-jodey-whiting-following-second-inquest/>
- Errol Graham (starvation after ESA stopped) — <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2020/january/disabled-man-starved-death-after-dwp-wrongly-stopped-his-benefits>
- Philippa Day inquest (Regulation 28 reports to DWP and Capita) — <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2021/june/dwp-responds-coroner%E2%80%99s-prevention-death-notice-following-tragic-death-philippa-day>
- DWP mortality statistics (ESA/IB/SDA claimants), 2015 — <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mortality-statistics-esa-ib-and-sda-claimants>
- Full Fact correction (the discredited “2,380 within weeks” figure) — <https://fullfact.org/news/statistics-authority-calls-research-fit-work-deaths/>

- National Audit Office, Benefit Sanctions (2016) — <https://www.nao.org.uk/insights/benefit-sanctions/>
- Barr et al., “First, do no harm,” J Epidemiol Community Health 2016;70(4):339-345 — <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4819657/>
- Welfare Conditionality Project, Final Findings (2018) — <https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/154305/>
- Williams (2021), Social Policy & Administration — <https://eprints.gla.ac.uk/215868/>
- Pattaro et al. (2022), Journal of Social Policy (scoping review) — <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7613403/>

Australia

- Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme, Final Report (2023) — <https://robodebt.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/report>
- RMIT FactLab (Robodebt “2,030 deaths” figure corrected) — <https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/factlab-meta/robodebt-not-directly-responsible-for-more-than-2000-deaths>
- Senate inquiry, Disability Support Pension (2022) — <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/disability-support-pension-applicants-are-being-forced-into-poverty-inquiry-hears/kkmob0fsd>
- Senate inquiry, ParentsNext (2019) — https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/ParentsNext/Report
- Community Development Program penalties (NSSRN/NAAJA, 2020) — <https://www.ejaustralia.org.au/cdppenalties/>

New Zealand

- Welfare Expert Advisory Group, Whakamana Tāngata (2019) — <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/weag/index.html>
- Understanding Welfare Sanctions in Aotearoa New Zealand (2021) — <https://communityresearch.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Understanding-Welfare-Sanctions-in-Aotearoa-New-Zealand-July-2021.pdf>

United States

- Sommers et al., Arkansas Medicaid work requirements, NEJM 2019 — <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMSr1901772>
- Sommers et al., two-year impacts, Health Affairs 2020 — <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7497731/>
- Gresham v. Azar, 950 F.3d 93 (D.C. Cir. 2020) — <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/cadc/19-5094/19-5094-2020-02-14.html>
- Congressional Budget Office (2022), Work Requirements and Work Supports — <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58199>

- Gelber et al. (2023), Journal of Public Economics (disability insurance and mortality) — <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272723002153>

Principle

- “The implementation of welfare policies are not held to the same ethical standards as research,” Frontiers in Public Health (2021) — <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2021.764559/full>
- WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health, Closing the Gap in a Generation (2008) — <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-IER-CSDH-08.1>