



Human Rights Council
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Ninth Session
Item 4 - Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities
Statement of Canada
July 12, 2016

Good morning, and thank you to the distinguished panel for the earlier discussion.

The Government of Canada is committed to making decisions supported by the best data available to improve the well-being of all Indigenous peoples, including those with disabilities, and is working to ensure that key sources of data on Indigenous people are maintained and that longstanding data gaps are addressed.

The Government of Canada reinstated the mandatory long-form census, which is a key source on reserve and community-level data, designed to collect data on a wide range of socio-economic and demographic topics for all Canadians, including the Indigenous population. However, the Census on its own does not provide all the data needed to support policy-making on Indigenous people with disabilities.

The Government of Canada established the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee in 2010 to help inform the work of different levels of government in the development of disability policy and programs. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is also a member of this Committee and co-chairs a working group examining “Data and Information Related to Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities.”

Given the importance of research on Indigenous persons with disabilities, the working group has been asked to identify data gaps and opportunities for research on Indigenous peoples living with disabilities in Canada.

We believe that better data is essential to address intersecting forms of discrimination and to improve and develop adequate and effective programming and services available to Indigenous peoples living with disabilities.

Thank you.