

AT Banter Podcast Episode 306 - Disability Without Poverty

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SPEAKERS

Rob Mineault, Rabia Khedr, Ryan Fleury

- R** Rob Mineault 00:18
Hey and welcome to another episode of AT Banter. See whenever now you got so used to everyone being here and now people aren't here and that's completely threw me off and derailed me. This is, of course, the podcast where we talk with advocates and members of the disability community to educate and inspire better conversation about disability. Hey, my name is Rob Mineault. Oh, joining me today. Mr. Ryan Fleury.
- R** Ryan Fleury 00:47
Hello, everyone.
- R** Rob Mineault 00:48
And we've got a couple of holes in the roster this week. No, Steve Barclay and no Lis Malone. But that's okay. Who needs those people anyways?
- R** Ryan Fleury 01:00
That's right, the show must go on.
- R** Rob Mineault 01:02
That's right, it must go on. So speaking of which, I don't want to waste any time because I'm very excited about today's show. Ryan, why don't you tell the fine folks at home what the heck we're doing today.

R Ryan Fleury 01:16

Sure. So it's very, very, very pleased to have our guest with us today. She is the National Director of Disability Without Poverty, Rabia Khedr , and I apologize if I mispronounced your last name, Rabia. But welcome to the show.

R Rabia Khedr 01:30

That is a really good pronunciation!

R Ryan Fleury 01:38

Well, I did a little bit of research to try and get it right.

R Rob Mineault 01:42

Well, can be tricky when you've got JAWS.

R Rabia Khedr 01:48

Oh, I know all kinds of names in JAWS accent.

R Ryan Fleury 01:56

So great you could be with us.

R Rabia Khedr 01:57

Well, thanks for having me.

R Rob Mineault 01:59

You know, we talk a lot on the show, and have talked a lot on the show about, you know, the the Accessibility Act, the various Accessibility Acts. Here in BC, we just got our own last year. So you know, we talk a lot about them, but we don't often get a chance to really get sort of an informed view of them. So we are sort of excited, because politics aren't our strong suit, we're kind of all dummies around here. We don't really understand politics, we sort of just read the headlines and sort of make our own assumptions. So we are really excited to be able to talk to you and to sort of get a little bit of a view on the inside track on some of these. But before we

get there, maybe you could just give us a little bit of background about yourself and a little bit of background about about disability without poverty and how you came to become involved with them.

R

Rabia Khedr 02:51

Okay, well, I'm situated here in Mississauga, Ontario, the traditional territories, most recently of the Mississauga of the new credit. I do identify myself, as, you know, Rabia Khedr, I'm a hyphen with many hijabs because I cover my hair, and I believe in Canada's multicultural reality. So I am a Muslim, Punjabi, Pakistani Canadian woman, wife, mother, advocate of aging parents, sister of individuals with disabilities, and I happen to be blind. So that's kind of who I am. I have worked and volunteered and lived Disability Rights forever, almost, at least working in it for a good 30 years. I got connected to Disability Without Poverty because I met someone who was doing work on the West Coast and had been instrumental in bringing forward what we now known know as the Registered Disability Savings Plan. Al Etmanski. I was appointed to the Minister's Disability Advisory Group during COVID. And I was its co-chair. He asked me to host a few webinars in the fall of 2020, which were engaging people with disabilities and their allies and supporters in conversations around you know, poverty and Policy and Outreach and, you know, building capacity of the movement. And when the Prime Minister made the promise of the Canada Disability Benefit, this was a historic opportunity and it was time to take the bull by the horns so to speak. So Disability Without Poverty came to being I got involved in its leadership. We have a leadership table, and then eventually I took on the role of National Director. So Disability Without Poverty is a Coast to Coast national grassroots movement of people with disabilities. We engage our allies and organizations, but the leadership is individuals with lived experience of disability across the country from diverse backgrounds with different disabilities. So we came to being and we just, you know, as we keep joking, we started to build a plane and fly it at the same time, because we were at the mercy of political system where, you know, people with disabilities had been left behind during the pandemic, and further marginalized than they ever were before, because of the pandemic, and it's ablist emergency measures and emergency responses. And now, there was something good being proposed, and we needed to really galvanize momentum to see this through, because we didn't think that it could be left to government to do alone.

R

Rob Mineault 06:10

So the organization was really born out of COVID? And in a reaction to COVID, if I'm if I'm understanding correctly?

R

Rabia Khedr 06:18

A reaction to the state of poverty and the fact that people with disabilities were being forgotten. And under COVID, you know, the one time only emergency relief that was offered to people with disabilities became, you know, a political little pawn, and then eventually was passed. Workers were valued and got \$2,000 a month, like, like, snap snap, right? Like, like yesterday, you've never seen money move so fast in government and bureaucracy. Students got their benefit, seniors got their benefit, people with disabilities waited until six months later, maybe, to get their get their emergency relief. So yeah, we took steam because of the

pandemic, there was work. You know, there's a lot of work that's being that has been historically done by organizations and groups, spotlighting the financial circumstances of people with disabilities. A lot of work was done on the West Coast. We built on that work, really laser focused on this one particular proposed bill, last year known as C-35, which died on the table when Parliament was dissolved for an election, and then was reintroduced as C-22. And now is in its second reading in the house.

R

Ryan Fleury 08:00

And so why don't we kind of describe or explain a little bit about what C-22 is?

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Rabia Khedr 08:06

So Bill C-22. Is the the proposed candidate disability benefit act, it only becomes act once it passes through Parliament, and it's signed off on it becomes legislation, it becomes the law, and then it turns into from a bill to an act. We actually have a very good webinar on our website that was that was put out in June how how a bill becomes law. So it is a framework bill that outlines the candidate disability benefit and gives power to government, ie bureaucracy, to form regulations in order to deliver the benefit. So it's it's it's a benefit that does not have the details in it. Like it doesn't have a specific amount. It doesn't have specific eligibility criteria. It's a framework bill that once it becomes law gives power to the bureaucracy to then put forward regulations.

R

Ryan Fleury 09:37

And so it had its first reading in Parliament just recently did it not?

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Rabia Khedr 09:41

The first reading was in June 2. Second reading was tabled on Tuesday, September 20.

R

Rob Mineault 09:48

You know, it's an it's so interesting because so many times and we found that with with our particular provincial Disability Act, that a lot of these are acts are written in ways that the language is very vague, or not necessarily all that strong. And I know that that can really frustrate a lot of the advocacy groups that point out a lot of these things. You know, the Accessible Canada Act, for example, is a little bit notorious for, for actually providing loopholes to the very organizations and government agencies that the act is supposed to sort of be overseeing. Do you find that with this particular act? Is the language sort of frustrating and written in a way that is going to leave too much interpretation up to bureaucracy?



Well, we as you know, disability without poverty and most disability organizations, and, you know, broadly agree that this Act needs to pass as is. And then we need to work with the bureaucracy to to determine those regulations. Because what our fear is that if there's too much detail in the act, if it isn't this just framework outlining what this benefit is going to be like, then there's no opportunity to change it. For example, if they put a minimum amount, if they put any number in there today, no government in the future is going to come and say, oh, well, that's too little, we're going to increase it.

R

Rob Mineault 11:33

No, that's true.

R

Rabia Khedr 11:35

Well, you already got what you wanted. Too bad.

R

Rob Mineault 11:40

Yeah, that's, yeah, that's true. That's a very good point, I hadn't thought of that.

R

Rabia Khedr 11:43

That's the big risk in adding in more details, that the details then in legislation, are very difficult to undo. Regulations can be changed more easily. So like one of the examples I can give you is, you know, some of the language in the Ontario - and I'm gonna use an Ontario example, forgive me, okay? We are not the center of the universe in Canada. But this is where, where I'm situated. And this is what I know. So I served as a commissioner with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and the word handicapped is still present in the preamble and legislation for the Ontario Human Rights Code. And the reason some of that language in the code doesn't necessarily change is, if you open it, you know, depending on the flavor of the day of the government, right? If you open up making a legislative change to the Human Rights Code, then you open it up for debate, and you risk it all being gone, depending on who's who's in power. So that's the risk in putting in too many details in legislation. And amending legislation is a very difficult process.

R

Ryan Fleury 13:09

Well, it's been a difficult process getting to this point, you know, you can only imagine the fight, we would all have trying to, like you say get these changes made after the fact.

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Rabia Khedr 13:19

Exactly.

R

Rob Mineault 13:22

So can you kind of talk to us a little bit about sort of what, what kind of implications to sort of the, you know, the person on the street is going to be with this Act?

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Rabia Khedr 13:35

Well, here's, here's the basic gist of it, right. Depending on how they define the eligibility criteria and who qualifies, and, you know, how, what kind of income thresholds they set and all that. The intention is people who are on fixed income right now, that is inadequate, and they're living in poverty will have more money, they will have a top up benefit, just like seniors have a guaranteed income supplement. Just like families with young children have the child tax benefit, right? The children's benefit. That means just more money, and more money in a way that provincial governments can't cut back. So provincial governments play a huge role in that. And that has to be negotiated once the bill passes into law. Bureaucrats have to negotiate, the Minister has to negotiate with her counterpart Ministers that the Canada Disability Benefit won't be clawed back by Provinces. So that's also a big piece, but the whole intention is, people will come out ahead with more money. Now, generally As you know, the pot of money is not going to be infinite, it's going to be a finite amount, right? So there's going to be a big x billion dollars. And that x billion dollars has to be spread out. And it can mean that everybody with a disability gets some money. Or it means, you know, a lot of people with disabilities that are truly in poverty, get a little bit more money. So the more people that we want to spread this money to, the less the amount they'll get, the more specific the criteria is of who qualifies for it, the larger the amount.

R

Rob Mineault 15:47

Well, and I've heard that, that there are benefits out there. And, and forgive me if I'm getting some of this wrong, but I know that I have heard pushback on on some provincial disability benefits, in terms of who qualifies for those benefits in the language of how that qualification process works. So for example, like making it making it actually difficult for people with legitimate types of disabilities to actually get those benefits. Are you finding that that's something that you're running up against?

R

Rabia Khedr 16:26

Well, there, you know, there, there are so many benefits across the country. And each province has its own eligibility criteria and assessment criteria and definition of disability that they're applying. So there needs to be some common understanding of who qualifies. Federally, we would say use the Accessible Canada Act definition, because that's the generally accepted definition of disability by the disability community. So, but but provinces have their own definitions, and some provinces don't even have a disability specific benefits. There are different amounts in each province. You know, for example, Ontario just raised its benefit amount to \$1,227. The Alberta income support for I guess the handicapped, it must be the age is around, you know, a little over 1600 or something. And in BC, it's around, you know, over 1300 and something and in one of the eastern provinces, it's under \$1,000. So there are

different amounts across the country, different definitions across the country. You know, different rules around clawbacks, there's a lot of differences that have to be mitigated, to make sure that people with disabilities actually come out ahead.

R

Rob Mineault 17:58

Yeah, and that's going to be one of the things that's the real challenge. It really increases the number of moving parts and things that you have to look at. And I mean, I guess that that kind of means that each province really needs to have its own sort of grassroots organization, that's, that's actively advocating for these things, because you just can't do it on a Federal level.

R

Rabia Khedr 18:21

Absolutely. And that's why we are organizing province by province. So, by province by province, we have to bring people with disabilities and allies and supporters together, learn to tell our stories, figure out reaching out to our politicians and meeting with them and, and telling them how important this federal benefit is to us and that they need to stand with us to put pressure on the federal government to make this happen fast. And that they also need to be committed to not taking anything away from us because there's this new federal supplemental benefit coming in.

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Rob Mineault 19:26

Before we move on from the from this topic, I just want to ask just for our listeners, what can they do to help with this movement?

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Rabia Khedr 19:37

Well, they can go to our website www.disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca and through our website, they can get involved and participate by writing to their MP, requesting a meeting with their MP and impress upon them the need for a candidate disability benefit. So we do have a system there for them to write to the MP, we also have information there for them to request a meeting with their MP.

R

Rob Mineault 20:07

So I kind of want to talk a little bit about about advocacy in general, and, and sort of get your take on this. Uh, you know, we've been talking a lot on the show in the past few months with a lot of different organizations, advocacy organizations, some global and some more local. But I really get the sense that that more so than ever, and especially since COVID, disability advocacy is becoming more and more important. People need to have their voices heard. And I like to think that it's getting better, I think people in the community are becoming a little bit more involved, and a little bit more vocal, but I just want to get your take on it, seeing as

disability without poverty is such a new organization, and it is led by people with disabilities. I just kind of want to get your take on how you feel about about that. And if if you have sensed some real change in the community over the past few years.

R

Rabia Khedr 21:08

Well, we are privately funded, funding really helps with this work, otherwise, we couldn't do what we're doing. Yes, we are people with disabilities, we have funding to support the work, we have all kinds of disabilities the related supports as well. Like if you notice when we actually do an online meeting, or we do a webinar, we have French English translation, we have American Sign Language, we have LSU, which is for for French Sign Language, we have Captioning. So we do our best to provide all kinds of disability related accommodations to make sure that people can fully participate. You know, foundation philanthropic organizations have believed in us and given us you know, a good amount of funding to do the work that we're doing. We recognize that we're all people with different disabilities and have different needs, and try our best to support each other in our own ways of knowing and doing and engaging. I mean, what else? What else can I tell you? It's it's challenging, working virtually and nationally, and be still being grassroots. And we are, we are very grassroots in that regard of, you know, we're connected on the ground talking to people, we're communicating in all kinds of means to people. We have a lot going on right now in terms of reaching out to people. So we have, you know, we do all kinds of media gigs, we publish Op Eds. We have a lot of social media activity happening. We do a newsletter to connect with people, but we also have public service announcements that are going on radio across the country, and we have billboard ads in in Vancouver and Edmonton and in Toronto. Again, we're just telling our government, our parliamentarians to just hurry up and get it done. People with disabilities have lived in poverty too long, they feel abandoned, neglected, left behind, and forgotten. We actually have a champion in Minister Qualtrough because she has the lived experience, she is a person with a disability. This is her legacy bill that she wants enacted, to truly make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities, who don't enjoy the advantages that she enjoys as a person with a disability.

R

Rob Mineault 23:43

From the perspective of people on the ground quite often, when we're talking about a lot of these things, we get frustrated. As advocate and as as an ally, and Ryan is a member of the disability community, it seems like this process takes a lot longer to to become a reality than it needs to be.

R

Rabia Khedr 24:07

Agreed.

R

Ryan Fleury 24:09

Yeah, okay, well, you guys need to stop reinventing the wheel, look at some existing projects that have been done. And, you know, adapt and evolve. You know, I don't think we need to keep reinventing what's been done in the past. We need to look at the past, learn from the past

and continue to move forward. Instead of you know, we need more study groups, research panels.

R

Rabia Khedr 24:33

Oh, you're so right. You're so right. We're all sick and tired of being studied and asked to consult and, you know, give our information freely over and over and over again, repeat our stories over and over again. We don't need any more evidence. There's enough evidence. There's evidence when you see people with using mobility devices, like wheelchairs, lining up at the food bank, there's your evidence, you don't need anything more than that. People with disabilities are living in poverty, they're hurting financially, they need help. And the government needs to deliver it's time like, let's, let's do things differently. I mean, you know, we had an awakening through this pandemic. And, you know, as ablists, we did resolve for the able bodied world very quickly, during the pandemic, you know, work at home, no problem! That was unfathomable before. Government, CRA working from home. So if we can, if the government can work from home with super sensitive information, what's the big deal for a person with a disability to work from home? Which is an accommodation that we begged for for decades, and were denied. And suddenly, when able bodied people needed it. Oh, no problem. Yeah, yeah, we need you to work. Right. And when able bodied, when the economy needed money circulating, and people needed, you know, the average Canadian need to pay their rent and buy their food and, you know, keep their cars parked and shiny during the lockdown. We had no problem saying, oh, click, click, here's \$2,000 in your bank accounts.

R

Ryan Fleury 26:30

And that's something --

R

Rabia Khedr 26:37

People could have done during the pandemic is just congregate together and bank a whole lot of money.

R

Ryan Fleury 26:43

And that's something I've been mentioning on the show for for a while now is that, you know, being part of the disability community, you know, the largest minority group in the world, our voices are slowly starting to be heard, we're starting to come together and make some noise. And I think that's been part of the issue for so long is that we've been so divided. And, you know, nobody can agree to disagree, and let's work for the common good of everyone. And I think that is starting to change.

R

Rabia Khedr 27:16

We're still doing that. Even now, there are some organizations saying, oh, wait a minute, why is this benefit only for 18 to 64? And that's because there is a children's supplemental benefit already out there. And that's because there is a seniors benefit already out there. This benefit

already out there. And that's because there is a seniors benefit already out there. This benefit may not be ideal for children with disabilities or families of children with disabilities. This benefit, you know, I mean, not this benefit, but you know, there are people, families of children with disabilities may be facing challenges, seniors with disabilities may be facing financial challenges. But let's get what's on the table done. And then we can argue for those things, let's not argue to change the legislation. Because there are already benefits in place for those two populations. Maybe there needs to be a supplement for seniors with disabilities within the seniors guaranteed income supplement, right? You know, but let's not help this. Let's move, let's move, let's put pressure on, let's speak up, let's find our voice, let's use our power because we have the power to vote. We are 22% of the population in this country. And obviously, we have another 22% of the population or more related to us in our households. And we need to leverage that power. We need to remind our democratic elected people that we're the ones who vote them in, and they better do right by us, or the people we care about.

R

Ryan Fleury 28:56

That's if we can get you an accessible voting station.

R

Rabia Khedr 29:02

That's a whole other conversation. I let somebody else you know, swear by God that they'll check off the right box.

R

Ryan Fleury 29:16

Yeah, I hear ya.

R

Rob Mineault 29:19

No, don't vote for Doug. It's so fascinating to me, because you know, everything that you're saying resonates so loudly yet. Yet. I remember specifically, you know, doing this show during the pandemic, and we would we would look at new different news articles that would say things like, oh, hey, people with disabilities are being sort of left behind in, you know, it, like the COVID is really sort of putting a spotlight on on a lot of these holes in the system. So we got media coverage. People knew about that. But At the end of the day, the articles would just come, they would go and nothing really seemed to change. And now that we're on the other side of it, really it doesn't sound like we really learned many lessons in terms of that. We're just kind of going back to the old with the exception of some great organizations like you guys that are trying to move past that - but I guess my question is, because this is what really baffles me, because you right there, it's a it's a, it can be a big voting bloc, there are certain voices that can be really loud. I feel like if this was another equity seeking group that would that had been given shortchange like this, or had so many holes in the system, that there could be a a real movement against that. Real pushback that would be would have had politicians paying attention, but for some reason, the disability community and disability advocacy, just I don't know if it's if it's not taken seriously, or if there just aren't enough voices, or they're not loud enough, or what's or why change is so slow, when it comes to disability advocacy.

R

Rabia Khedr 31:17

Because the advocacy being done typically has only been done by government funded organizations, national government funded organizations, and advocacy is just a little part of the work that they do they do. People with disabilities with lived experience at the grassroots level are not united to do the advocacy.

R

Rob Mineault 31:44

Interesting. Yeah, yeah, that makes a lot of sense.

R

Rabia Khedr 31:47

That's the problem. And we're not united because we get divided by the type of disability, we get divided by, oh, I'm the person with a disability. And those are parents, we get divided by labels. I mean, my favorite example that I always use is people with intellectual disabilities, and people with autism. It's, autism is the sexy term, and everybody wants that label. And they're doing their own thing advocating. And they're a very strong advocacy group, which is great, you know, the families, parents are doing a wonderful job advocating for their children with autism. But we've kind of divided and conquered politically, a population group that costs the system, a lot of money in terms of supports, that's how they're seen. So running group homes and stuff costs a lot of money, but we're gonna, you know, we're gonna divide and conquer you guys, we're gonna call you the guys with autism, and you, the guys with intellectual disabilities, and you the guys with dual diagnosis, and we're just going to keep you all separated, so you don't work together. So you compete for the same resources.

R

Rob Mineault 33:02

Yeah, that's, that's really interesting. We talked to to the CEO of an organization, a global organization called Billion Strong last week. And he was, you know, saying very much the same thing. And that's the mindset, all over the world with disability communities, is that a lot of times, they do feel like they are competing for scarce resources, and they will actively be working against each other, even though, you know, they should be working together, they could be related. I mean, any disability organization should feel like a kinship to any other organization. But it really always seems to come down to feeling like you're competing for resources. So, you know, I guess the question is, like, how do we, how do we break out of that, you know, how to what do we how do we change the system, because the way that he framed it, he was like, people shouldn't be feeling like they're, they're fighting over, small pieces of pie, they should want the whole pie. They all need to work together to have an entire pie instead of feeling like you're, you're fighting over one piece.

R

Rabia Khedr 34:09

Yeah, exactly. We shouldn't always feel that something's going to be taken away from us. It's the idea of, you know, switching from ME to WE, and, you know, the common good. So it's, it's, it's some of those sort of traditional communal concepts where everybody united together to

It's some of those sort of traditional communal concepts where everybody worked together to achieve what they needed. And to be, like, successful and supported and fed. Whereas, you know, in our sort of, dog eat dog capitalist world, it's just me, me, me, me, me, and that resonates across the board and everything for us.. It's all about me. And even amongst people with disabilities, it's about me. You know, I'm facing the most barriers, because I'm blind, or I'm more disabled than you are because I'm quadriplegic in a wheelchair, or, oh, I don't have a disability, I speak another language all of you have a problem and you need interpreters to talk to me. So we divide ourselves.

R

Rob Mineault 35:19

Yeah, and, you know, and I guess that's the challenge of the disability community is that it's so wide ranging, like, you have people who have different needs, all across the board, even within the, you know, the same sort of disability identity. You know, for people who are blind, you can have a wide range of, of gradients, and, and needs, and, you know, let alone somebody with autism, to somebody who's, who's a paraplegic, it's so hard to to be able to build something that fulfills everybody's needs. And I guess that that's part of the challenge with such a large community.

R

Rabia Khedr 35:57

Yeah, and that's why we haven't been united. But in this case, it's money. It's financial, you know, autonomy. It's, all of us, regardless of our type of disability, may be experiencing poverty, if we're on provincial benefits. And therefore, we need to work together to achieve something for all of us.

R

Rob Mineault 36:25

And it means something like this, something like your organization, it's such a simple ask, it's not like you're you're trying to completely renovate every single built environment, across the country. You're literally just saying, hey, we just need we just want people with disabilities to not live below the poverty line. That's it like that's, it seems like it's a simple ask. And it's incredibly difficult to even get the needle moving in, in that sense.

R

Rabia Khedr 36:52

And it's actually, you know, we want them to not have to live with poverty, but we want them to have money to spend to buy their basic needs. So they can live with dignity. It's, and what people need to understand is, you're not giving money to people to get rich, they're not going to hoard it, they're not going to bank it and invest it and grow it and get filthy, disgustingly wealthy, you know, on taxpayers backs, that's not what they're going to do, they're actually going to take that money, and go out and buy the food they need, pay their rent, buy clothes, do their laundry, maybe, you know, like they're gonna meet basic, basic needs. Like there are awful, awful stories out there. You know, people can't but you know, not government does not pay for everything for people with disabilities. Right? They don't. And people need to

understand that people with disabilities can't go and buy painkillers for God's sake to battle a headache, so that they can function and do something during the day. Or they don't, they can't go out and buy the clothes they need for a job interview.

R

Rob Mineault 38:04

Yeah, well, if you don't, we saw this all the time over with COVID. So many of the so many times the a lot of the mandates, and the solutions that we came up with as a society didn't consider people with disabilities at all. And it made it incredibly hard for somebody with with say, who is blind to go to the grocery store? Because if you're blind and you're in a grocery store, how are you going to maintain the six foot distance between anybody? Well, we couldn't, even the online apps weren't accessible. Yeah, exactly.

R

Ryan Fleury 38:38

The ArriveCan app wasn't accessible when it was first launched. COVID tests weren't accessible. You know, like, we were left out of that whole conversation completely, completely left out.

R

Rabia Khedr 38:46

But you know, now we need we need to have a little trust. I mean, part of the thing that keeps the disability community fragmented and not united is we don't trust each other. You know, the kind of stuff I keep hearing is, you know, we need to build trust, we need to feel safe coming together. And it's, and a little bit of it to me is like, guys, let's keep our eye on the prize. We may not do things, right. But let's get the prize. You know, we might not get everything right along the way. But let's get the prize. That's the goal. The goal is, is is the Canada Disability Benefit into people's bank accounts before next Thanksgiving. That's the goal for me. I want to watch people in 2023 to be able to give thanks for the Canada Disability Benefit. Well, you know, you're angling for a repeat appearance one year from now so that we can revisit this and we'll see where we're at. Maybe it will be a celebratory podcast episode. Well, right now we just need people to come come to Ottawa, if they have the means for people to get out onto Parliament Hill on October the 19th, at 12 noon, Ottawa time, and come rally with us for the Canada Disability Benefit, we want the government to pass C-22. in 2022. Yes, we want them to budget the CDB in spring 23. And we want them to deliver the CDB in September 23 just in time for Thanksgiving.

R

Ryan Fleury 40:54

And so if people want to follow, I know you guys have hashtags as well for a bunch of this different different topics.

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Rabia Khedr 41:06

#CDBBy23. #DisabilityPoverty, and just come check us out at www.disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca.

R

Rob Mineault 41:19

We need the voices. People need us to start getting involved as much good work that is slowly happening, you need to push them and to let your voice be heard. And I think that that just becoming involved in one thing in your local community or one thing in a in a national movement, become a member, find out what's going on, figure out how you what you can do to help and to take action. That's what every single person needs to be doing. Because now's the time. I'm sorry, that noise was me getting off my soapbox. Ah, listen, we want to thank you so much for for taking some time out and talking to us about about this today because it's been really informative. I know that me, I'm angry now. I'm going to I'm going to do something, I'm going to take some action on my end. Ryan, you better too.

R

Ryan Fleury 42:19

I am. Yes.

R

Rob Mineault 42:20

There you go.

R

Rabia Khedr 42:22

Good. Good. Go tell those party leaders to get their act together and not waste our time. I mean, life's Life's too short. You know, they gave people with disabilities the right to medical assistance and dying. Give them the right to live with this benefit.

R

Rob Mineault 42:38

And I mean, I can't make it to Ottawa, I'm still not flying man.

R

Ryan Fleury 42:44

But you can write your MP.

R

Rob Mineault 42:46

Exactly.

R

Rabia Khedr 42:49

Just write to your MP, call your MP. You know, write an article. I mean, you're doing your part

through this podcast, my friends.

R Rob Mineault 42:57
That's true. But you can always do more. That's the thing. I got time to write a letter.

R Rabia Khedr 43:02
Hey, you just gotta click a couple of buttons on our website.

R Rob Mineault 43:07
Oh, really? Okay! I can definitely do that.

R Rabia Khedr 43:12
Okay, awesome.

R Rob Mineault 43:14
And I encourage every single person that's listening to this to do the same. That's disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca. Go take some action, find out how you can help. Click some buttons. Let's get this done. So we look forward to having you back on next Thanksgiving. We'll have some turkey some wine. And we'll celebrate the Act.

R Rabia Khedr 43:41
I'll get my Haala Turkey and I'll skip the wine.

R Rob Mineault 43:44
Okay, sounds good. Sounds good. That's great. Perfect.

R Ryan Fleury 43:49
Thank you so much.

R Rabia Khedr 43:52
Thank you. Bye.

R

Rob Mineault 43:54

See, I am mad now. Like that just made me mad.

R

Ryan Fleury 43:58

Yeah, well, you know, it's what happens when you have different persons with - well, when you have people disagreeing, it doesn't matter if it's disabled or not, you know, nothing gets accomplished.

R

Rob Mineault 44:08

Well, that Yeah. And then bureaucracy is so hard, politics and bureaucracy are just exhausting to follow and they're just - the language behind the Acts, your eyes will roll back in your head and they're so it's so vague and yeah, it's and things getting mired down first reading second reading blah, blah.

R

Ryan Fleury 44:28

Yeah, no, that's why, you know, you can follow them on Twitter, Facebook, you know, just their newsletter. If you don't want regular updates, follow the newsletter and get updated that way. There's lots of good information out there.

R

Rob Mineault 44:43

Well, but I do really think that it's it is really important for people to start to get involved. I think that for too long we've just kind of assumed that you know what, this is something that that we don't have any power against or that the you know, the whatever the provincial, that you're basically, you know, beholden to federal legislation or provincial legislation, you don't really have a say in anything because nobody, nobody seems to listen. The only way that they're going to listen is it's going to be strength in numbers, and you just have to get involved with some of these organizations and Disability Without Poverty is a great, great organization, if you're gonna, if you're gonna get involved somewhere, that's the place to do it. Because this is a an opportunity to make some real change in short order, like this is, you know, we're talking next year, this could be in place. So I encourage everybody to go find out how you can you can support them, and how you can take some action and help lend your voice to this because people aren't looking out for for you.

R

Ryan Fleury 45:52

Well, that's just, you know, how long have we sat by thinking of ourselves or somebody else will do it, somebody else will take care of it.

R Rob Mineault 45:58
Right? Yeah.

R Ryan Fleury 45:58
This is an instance where at any point, any one of us could be facing a poverty type situation. And so, you know, this affects all of us.

R Rob Mineault 46:09
It absolutely does, because anybody can enter into this community at any time. And it's just, you know, it's the right thing to do that. This is, you know, even if it yeah, anyways, get it done. You're gonna get me going on a rant. Climb down off my soapbox.

R Ryan Fleury 46:26
Yeah.

R Rob Mineault 46:29
But yeah, I that was that was great. It was informative. And I'm excited to see what happens next year. Yeah, I'm excited about this Ottawa rally. Finally, people going to Ottawa that aren't a bunch of dumb truckers.

R Ryan Fleury 46:45
I was gonna mention the truck rally.

R Rob Mineault 46:48
It's like maybe people can hitch a ride with the truckers like get them all stirred up about Trudeau again...

R Ryan Fleury 46:54
This is one instance where you can kind of look at that as being somewhat effective. Because how often do we see news last? As long as something like that did? Yeah, we'll get a sudden flash of news, and then it's gone. And people forget about it. Yeah, this is an instance where we can keep constant pressure, keep our voices heard on a consistent basis. And just keep saying, get this done, get this done, get this done. This doesn't have to go away.

R

Rob Mineault 47:26

Yeah. Yeah, it's, it's unfortunate, but there's a way that the media works, you know, things that are that are outrageous, or things that are controversial, tend to be the things that that have the most staying power. Things like the trucker convoy, I mean, god knows, weeks and weeks of that, of that nonsense, these guys. It was in the news cycle for weeks and weeks. And, you know, if that could have been some sort of a disability movement, and have led, you know, and had shed that much light on these issues. I mean, amazing, but no, we got weeks and weeks about, you know, a bunch of conspiracy theory, anti vaxx, a-holes, that, you know, just went and blocked streets, and that got so much oxygen. It's, it's really frustrating.

R

Ryan Fleury 48:18

And I'm glad to hear that, you know, disability without poverty is doing something I haven't heard anybody else doing even some of the largest disability organizations in Canada. They're having billboards put up. They're doing a media over radio. You know, they are putting the word out in people's faces in people's ears, that this has to happen. So kudos to them, because like I said, some of the largest organizations in Canada, I haven't seen them mentioned anything. They're doing great work. Yep. I'm impressed.

R

Rob Mineault 48:50

Yeah, me too. I love it. And like I said, I'm gonna go onto their website, click a bunch of buttons. And I'm excited. I'm excited to see where it goes. So awesome. All right. Well, I think should we get out of here, my friend?

R

Ryan Fleury 49:05

Yeah, let's do that back to work.

R

Rob Mineault 49:07

All right. Well, where can people find us Ryan?

R

Ryan Fleury 49:12

They can find us online at www.atbanter.com. They can also drop us an email if they so desire at cowbell@atbanter.com. And they can find us on Facebook and Twitter. And we need to stop promoting Instagram because we don't do squat over there.

R

Rob Mineault 49:33

Now, one day, maybe one day. By that time, all the kids will be off Instagram and they'll be on to something else anyway.

R Ryan Fleury 49:40
They're not on it now.

R Rob Mineault 49:41
Anyway, now they kind of our Instagram thing was the young ones. Yeah, they still like Instagram. Yeah.

R Ryan Fleury 49:48
The Tik Tok thing.

R Rob Mineault 49:49
Yeah, but they're different animals.

R Ryan Fleury 49:50
That's true.

R Rob Mineault 49:51
They're very different. You can't use you know, Instagrams to post pictures of your food and to make a duck face.

R Ryan Fleury 49:58
I'm going to create a social media platform Clip Clop

R Rob Mineault 50:02
I like it. What is it for horses?

R Ryan Fleury 50:07
Any hoofed animals.

R

Rob Mineault 50:10

I think it's a great idea. Another million dollar idea someone is going to steal.

R

Ryan Fleury 50:15

There you go. Elon Musk.

R

Rob Mineault 50:16

That's right. In three months Elon Musk will launch Clip Clop. We are giving him way too much material. He already ripped off our Mars mission idea. All right. That is going to about do it for us this week. Big thanks, of course for Rabia for joining us. Big thanks for everybody for listening in. And we will see everybody next week.

R

Ryan Fleury 50:42

Bye.