

Changes to parking policy will unfairly target workers with disabilities

By July 1 of this year, most federal government employees will be required to pay market rates to park in any government-owned buildings and lots. While it's clear that this will cause financial hardship for many public sector workers, it will have a particularly harsh impact on people with certain disabilities.

People with mobility issues who are not able to access other forms of transportation have no choice but to drive and park their cars. As it currently stands, most people with disabilities do not have to pay for parking. Costs will skyrocket when the new market rate is introduced – in some cases, to more than \$300 per month.

The policy will have a considerable impact on people with disabilities whose parking is currently 100 per cent subsidized. It will create a significant barrier, making it more difficult for them to access their workplaces.

All government departments have an obligation to accommodate workers with disabilities. The Public Service Alliance of Canada believes that people with disabilities who require designated parking should not be charged a fee for their parking.

The union is also concerned about the fact that Public Works and Government Services Canada is looking to privatize government lots, by transferring revenues to third party companies. Privatization of government property will only drive up the costs for all workers and taxpayers and make it more difficult to ensure reasonable accommodation for workers with disabilities.

Take action now:

It's not too late! Contact your Deputy Minister or department head immediately to raise these important concerns with them.

Tell them that people with disabilities with no other alternatives to get to work should not be penalized by having to pay for their parking.



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