



Employment Strategy for Canadians with Disabilities

Inclusion Canada

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Background

- The **Employment Strategy for Canadians with Disabilities** was first announced in the September 2020 Speech from the Throne as a key action under the **Disability Inclusion Action Plan** which was launched in October 2022.
- DIAP actions are organized under 4 mutually-reinforcing pillars:



Pillar 1 – Financial security



Pillar 2 – Employment



Pillar 3 – Accessible and inclusive communities

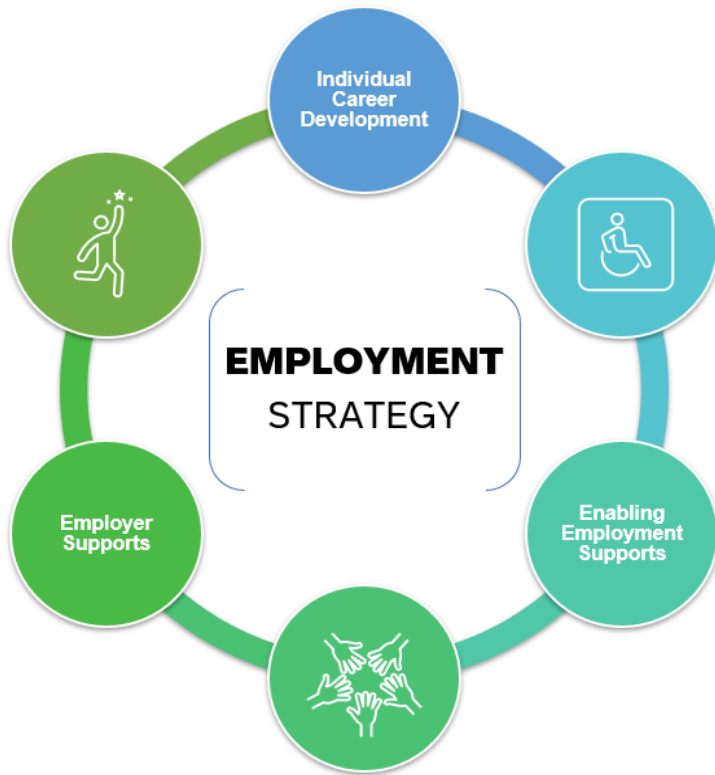


Pillar 4 – A modern approach to disability



Engagement leading to goals

- Following the principle of *Nothing Without Us*, engagement over the past three years led to the development of the Strategy's **overarching goals**, which are to support:



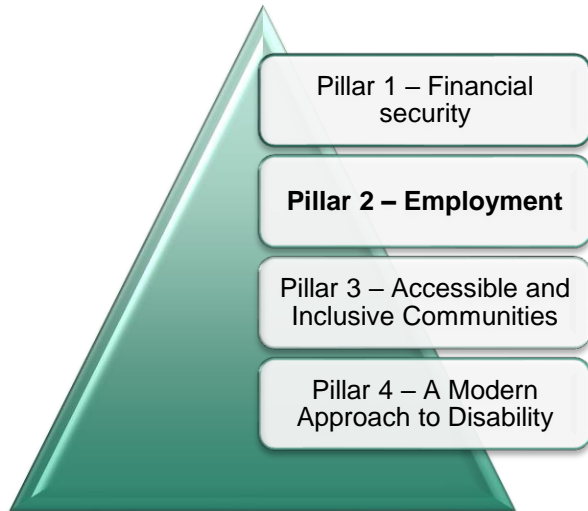
1. **Individuals** find and maintain good jobs, advance in their careers or become entrepreneurs;
2. **Employers** to diversify their workforces by creating inclusive and accessible workplaces; and
3. **Enablers**, by increasing the supply, capacity, and reach of individuals and organizations that work to support disability inclusion and accessibility in employment.

- The Employment Strategy will be evergreen, future-oriented and evolving. It will continue to draw on the energy, expertise, and leadership of persons with disabilities representing a range of backgrounds and intersecting identities.



Employment Strategy and the DIAP

Central to Pillar 2 of DIAP



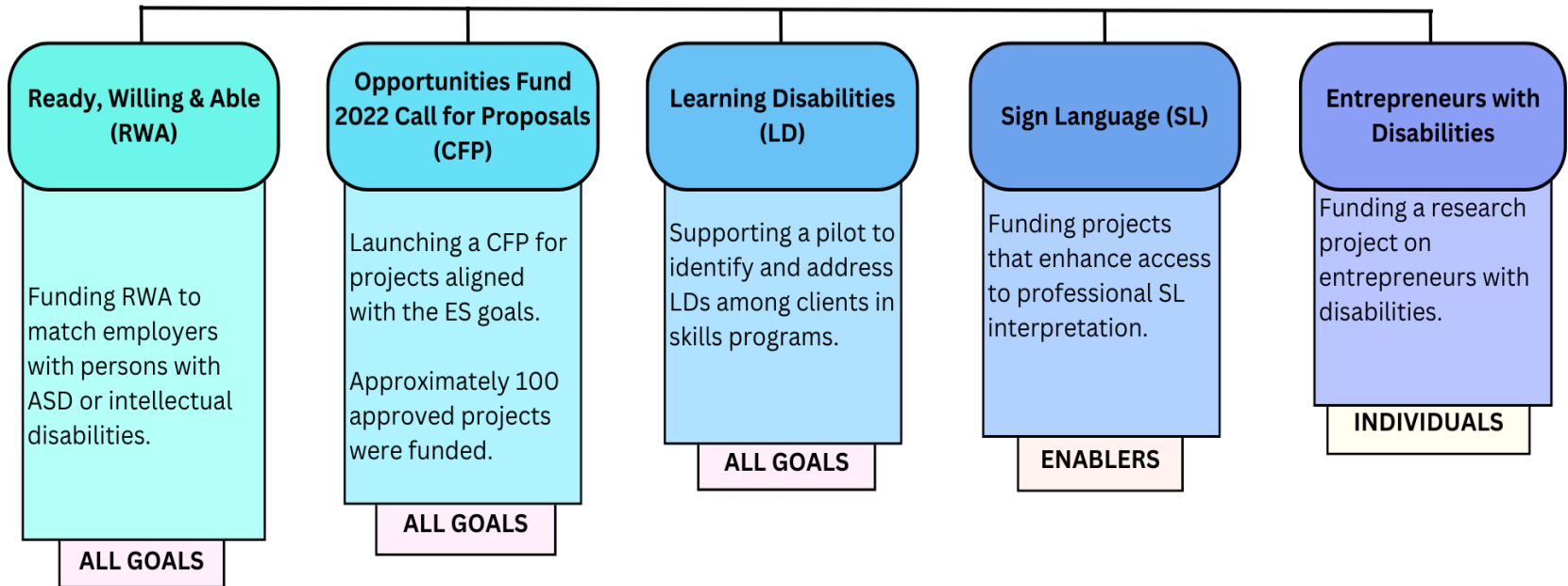
Aligns with the DIAP objectives



- The Employment Strategy will set out a **broader framework for the actions under Pillar 2** and **contribute to the overarching DIAP objective of reducing poverty**.
- It will **complement the Canada Disability Benefit** by providing active labour market supports to those who are ready and able to seek employment.

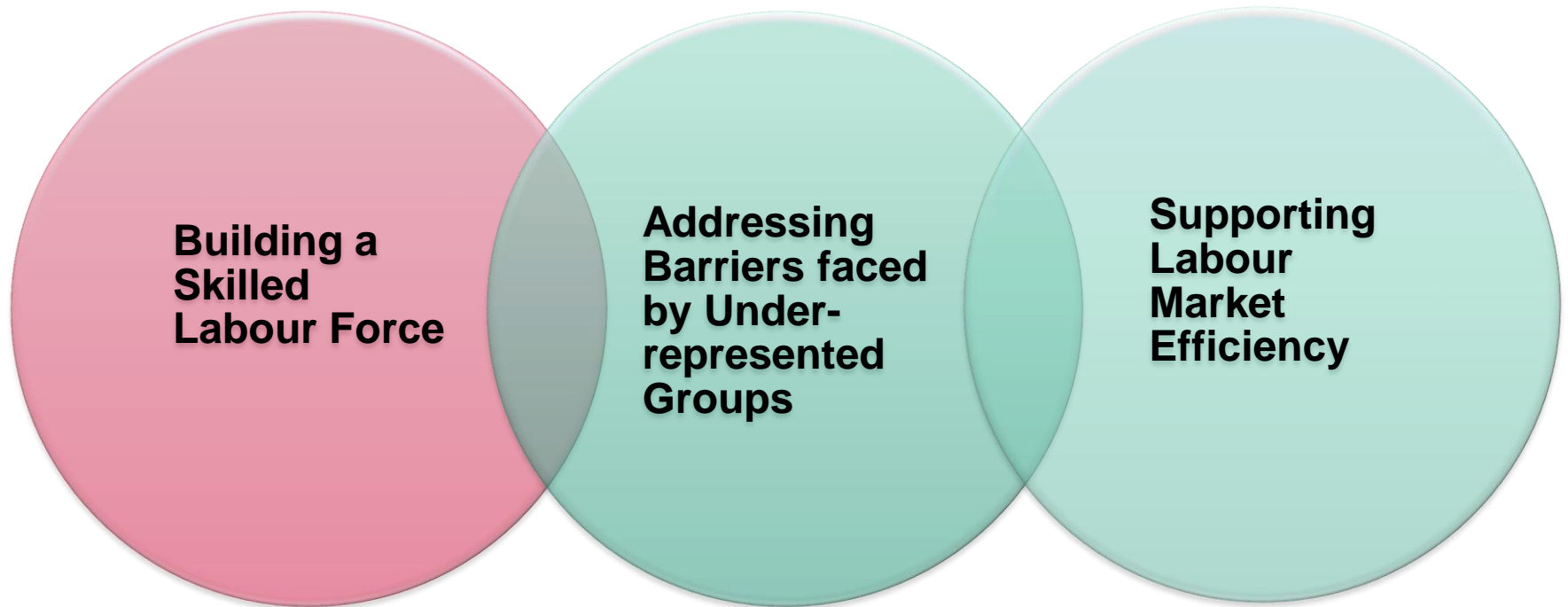
Implementing the Strategy through the Opportunities Fund

Budget 2022 announced \$272.6 million in new funds to support implementation of the **Employment Strategy** through the **Opportunities Fund (OF)**. Using OF's increased funding, the initiatives below are helping to implement the Strategy in alignment with its three goals: to support **individuals, employers, and enablers**.



Aligning programming with Strategy goals

Through its suite of skills and employment programs, ESDC is making targeted investments to improve the employment outcomes of persons with disabilities.



Next Steps

- Launch of an Employment Strategy Website
- In alignment with DIAP, develop an approach for ongoing engagement with persons with disabilities and stakeholders to inform the future development of the Strategy and support and evergreen approach
- Continue to embed a disability lens in ESDC programming

