

Segregated Schools for Students with Intellectual Disabilities



Inclusive Education Canada still has provinces and school districts and boards that have segregated schools for students with intellectual disabilities. This is the case despite the more than 25 years since the Charter of Rights & Freedoms came into force in Canada. Indeed, this discriminatory practice continues despite the Charter and human rights laws and despite compelling evidence that such schools and classes are not needed to provide these students with a quality education.

But in some communities they continue. Guess what? You don't typically find them in the small rural parts of the country or in the least prosperous parts of the country. Segregated schools are found most easily in some of our biggest, wealthiest cities. Why is that? A good question. The reasons are varied but inevitably connected to lack of vision; specific interests that resist change; lack of leadership; and mindless adherence to following the path of least resistance. While these programs may be well intentioned, they are a remnant of the past and do not meet the expectations we have for our children in 21st Century Canada.

We want to build an information bank on the segregated schools for students with disabilities still operating in Canada. We want to raise awareness that these institutions are not needed and that there are practical and successful alternatives to them found across Canada. In many communities good alternative approaches exist and even in the same provinces as the remaining segregated schools.

Our primary interest is schools that serve students with intellectual disabilities. Typically they are stand alone schools but some may be located in a wing or section of a school serving other students, but is a completely separate operation. We welcome your help in developing this data bank. If you have personal knowledge of these schools please send your comments to InclusiveEducation@cacl.ca.