

Yes, we know that many of our problems have to be solved at the Provincial Level. And that is why, ten months ago, on April 10th of last year, DJNO took a bus to Queen's Park. They were joined by members of the Campaign.

Joel Harden, NDP, MPP Ottawa Centre had organized the day in collaboration with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance and DJNO.

From 57 presenters we bore witness to the struggles of those with disabilities. Topics included, AODA enforcement, assistive devices reform program, social assistance rates, medical justice, education reform, public education and infrastructure among other subjects. For some, a major obstacle is the difficulty in communicating when autistic. Access to augmentative and alternative technologies is uneven and often not available.

One hundred people attended and among them family members, advocates, media, activities and other people with disabilities. Once the presenters had finished, the floor was open.

We learned of elementary school teachers who had received no training in how to use communication devices and knew no braille or Sign Language. Some students, needless to say, feel left out.

We learned of housing that was inadequate for many with disabilities. For six hours, we heard repeatedly about the barriers faced by those with disabilities today. Our population is aging, and the cost of living is increasing.

We want you to know that we are not stopping. We are still engaged in the good fight. We hope you are engaged right alongside us.

Elizabeth McGuire
Disability Justice Network of Ontario