

“PSDNet believes that there is something powerful and empowering in individuals with disabilities supporting other individuals with disabilities. All too often, people with disabilities are perceived as the recipients of support rather than providers.”

Who We Are

PSDNet is a virtual network that harnessing the power of online and social media technology to enable students with disabilities and others in postsecondary education to connect in ways seldom experienced in the current environment.

Our aim is to further the work underway in postsecondary education to **remove barriers and create opportunities** that promote the success of students with disabilities.

2X as many Ontarians without disabilities have university degrees than those with disabilities

68% vs 84 %

by age 21 fewer Ontario students with disabilities had participated in post-secondary education than those without disabilities

3X more Ontarians with disabilities are either unemployed or not in the labour force

Canada's Challenge

Postsecondary education is vital to achieving the full participation of people with disabilities in Canadian society.

The benefits of postsecondary education are well documented including more stable employment, and opportunities for personal and social development.

In Canada, people with disabilities are profoundly underrepresented in postsecondary education and consequently, the labour market.

Data reveals persistent challenges for students with disabilities, contributing to lower rates of postsecondary education credential attainment than those without disabilities.

Addressing this challenge is not only of key importance to achieving individual and societal prosperity, it lies at the very heart of the beliefs embedded within Canadian culture and society about equity and justice.

Our Objectives

PSDNet is structured through three broad themes: community development, education and mentorship. Our objectives are to:

- **Promote a positive and empowered disability identity**
- **Provide essential information about disability and issues relevant to postsecondary students with disabilities**
- **Provide postsecondary students with disabilities access to mentorship opportunities**
- **Disseminate information and resources**

Program Mission

The mission of our e-mentoring program is to foster mentoring experiences that empower post-secondary education students with disabilities to recognize and achieve their own potential such that they persist and succeed in post-secondary education and go on to attain personal and societal prosperity, stability, and security within their communities.

PSDNet: Envisioning **diverse and vibrant communities** in which all members have opportunities for **personal and social development**