

Network requests meeting with Human Resources Minister

Written by Administrator

Friday, 28 June 2013 00:00 - Last Updated Friday, 28 June 2013 00:05

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The National ME/FM Action Network has written the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development asking for a meeting. You can read the letter here:

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada is responsible is the federal government department responsible for social and disability issues including income security, social development and ensuring an inclusive workforce.

In August 2012, the National ME/FM Action Network submitted an application for funding to HRSDC. The Network's application for funding can be found here:

http://mefmaction.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=438:network-application-for-fed-govt-funding&catid=69:networknews&Itemid=287

We received a letter dated May 31, 2013 informing us that our application has been denied. The letter is here:

It is almost four years since we published Quest 80 which demonstrated that the ME/CFS and FM bring with them a high degree of disability (quite a number of people with ME/CFS and FM reported needing help with tasks, having difficulty in social situations and being permanently unable to work) and a high degree of disadvantage (quite of number of people with ME/CFS and FM reported low income, food insecurity and a sense of isolation from the community). These are the types of issues that HRSDC has responsibility for addressing. Despite this, the terms “chronic fatigue syndrome” and “fibromyalgia” appear on the HRSDC website in only two places. One says that the adjudication of CFS and FM applications for Canada Pension Plan Disability can be a challenge, and the other says that the CPP-D program has “a number of policies and reference tools on particular conditions (e.g. chronic pain, fibromyalgia and multiple chemical sensitivities)” but the materials referred to are not posted.

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It is both amazing and frustrating that HRSDC is not paying more attention of ME/CFS and FM. It is simply not possible to address issues like income security, social inclusion and workplace inclusion without considering the challenges faced by Canadians with ME/CFS and/or FM.

We hope that the Minister will consider alternate ways of reaching out to the ME/FM community in Canada.

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Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Margaret Parlor
National ME/FM Action Network
512, 33 Banner Road
Nepean, ON
K2H 8V7

MAY 31 2013

Dear Margaret Parlor:

We are writing further to your request for funding under the 2012 Call for Proposals for the Disability Component of the Social Development Partnership Program (SDPP-D).

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada has completed the assessment of applications for the above-noted Call.

We regret to inform you that, due to the limited budget available and the large number of applications received, your proposal has not been retained for further development.

All projects funded under this call will be posted on the Disclosure of Grants and Contributions site (http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/corporate/proactive_disclosure/index), once agreements are signed with the chosen applicants.

Should you have any questions regarding your application or the assessment process, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-866-268-2502 or by e-mail at ppdsp-hsdppd@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca.

Should you wish to have your e-mail address added to our distribution list, or want to receive program updates, please visit our website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca/disability. You provide your e-mail address through the secure link in the Contact Us section.

Thank you for your interest in the SDPP-D program.

Yours sincerely,

SDPP-D Support Team
Program Operations Branch

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