

What is the Canadian Down Syndrome Society?

The CDSS is a national non-profit organization providing information, advocacy and education about Down syndrome. The CDSS supports self-advocates, parents and families through all stages of their child's life.

The CDSS provides:

- * Up-to-date information through the CDSS website for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, educators, caregivers and professionals.
- * Publications, including the CDSS Quarterly newsletter
- * Toll-free information line: 1-800-883-5608
- * Resource centre and library
- * Network of over 50 Down syndrome groups
- * New Parent Packages containing a wealth of information for new and prospective parents

Our Vision

A proud Canada, where *ALL* are welcome, we embrace diversity and we value everyone's genes equally.



811 14 Street N.W. Calgary, Alberta T2N 2A4
Phone: (403) 270-8500 Toll-Free: 1-800-883-5608
Fax: (403) 270-8291 Email: info@cdss.ca

www.cdss.ca

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Celebrate Being

*Canada's national voice for
individuals with Down syndrome*



What is Down syndrome?

Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always existed and is universal across racial, gender and socio-economic lines.

Down syndrome is the result of extra genetic material associated with the 21st chromosome. The effects of this extra genetic material vary from individual to individual.

Down syndrome commonly results in an effect on learning style, although the differences are highly variable, just as physical characteristics or health concerns. With assistance opportunities exist for effective methods of teaching each individual.

Today, individuals with Down syndrome are going to post-secondary schools, working and getting married. People with Down syndrome are now given the opportunity to be fully contributing members of society.

Nothing a parent does, or fails to do, before or during pregnancy will cause Down syndrome. Eighty per cent of children with Down syndrome are born to women younger than 35 years old.

How can you help the CDSS?

You can help the CDSS fulfill our mission of ensuring equitable opportunities for all Canadians with Down syndrome.

By making a monthly donation, including us in your estate planning or a making a one-time gift, you will help continue the work of the Canadian Down Syndrome Society. By becoming a member, you are joining hundreds of families across Canada in supporting individuals with Down syndrome.

Our Mission

To ensure equitable opportunities for all Canadians with Down syndrome. This means, to make sure all Canadians with Down syndrome have the right supports to give them the same opportunities as everyone else.

