

## **2001 PALS: HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOLING AND BARRIERS TO ACCESSING EDUCATION**

### **How is Highest Level of Education Defined?**

The 2001 Census of Population collected information on the highest level of schooling. Accordingly, this information was coded into 21 individual categories. For the purpose of this Fact Sheet, the 21 categories were collapsed into two — some post-secondary education (any attendance at college or university), and no post-secondary education (highest level of schooling is secondary school graduation certificate or less, or trades certificate or diploma).

### **Do Ontario Adults with Disabilities Report the Same Levels of Education as their Non-disabled Peers?**

Some do and some don't. Overall, 41.4% of Ontario adults with disabilities report some post-secondary education while 58.8% of non-disabled Ontarians report that level of education.

### **Has the Gap Narrowed for Younger Adults with Disabilities?**

No. As the chart on the next page shows, the gap between the population with disabilities and those without remains fairly consistent across age group.

- Data are not shown for young adults aged 15 to 19 years since too few of both those with a disability and those without had any post-secondary education.
- The gap between those with a disability and those without among adults aged 20 to 24 years is greater but proportionately more adults with a disability are still attending school so this gap may ultimately lessen.
- What is disturbing is that the gap by five-year age groupings for the ages 25 to 44 years has remained constant. One would have expected that the removal of barriers that prevented or impeded full access to education would have improved the situation.

### **What Kind of Barriers Did Ontarians with Disabilities Encounter that Prevented or Impeded their Full Access to Education?**

There were 58,220 Ontarians with disabilities aged 15 to 64 years who were attending school at the time of the survey,

- the majority (86.9%) did not require any modifications to buildings or access to services in order to attend classes. Of those who required some modifications:
  - 51.4% required accessible classrooms;
  - 47.3% required accessible washrooms;
  - 50.3% required accessible buildings excluding residences;
  - 40.4% required accessible transportation; and
  - 31.7% required other features or services.

- the majority (77.4%) did not require any assistive devices or services to follow their selected courses. Of those who did require some assistive devices or services:
  - 38.9% needed a note taker or reader and 90.4% received the help that they needed;
  - 73.5% needed a tutor or teacher’s aide and only 74.8% reported that they were able to obtain that service;
  - 12.5% reported that they needed a computer with Braille, large print or speech access and only 59.3% reported access to that type of computer;
  - 22.3% reported that they needed recording equipment or portable note takers and 59.2% reported that they were able to obtain that equipment;
  - 17.2% reported that they needed attendant care services and 80.2% reported that they had been able to secure the help; and
  - 37.8% needed another type of aid or service and only 54% had what they needed.

Of the 1,433,235 Ontarians aged 15 to 64 years who were not in April 2001, 242,825 or 16.9% reported that they had their disability before completing their formal education. Of those, 81,315 (29.3%) reported that they had discontinued their education because of their disability.

Of the 81,315 Ontarians who reported that they had discontinued their formal education or training because of their condition, 36.6% reported less than secondary school graduation, 19.9% reported having secondary school graduation as their highest level of education, and 43.4% reported that they had some post-secondary education.

