

# Gerry Post

Panelist Notes for CEO Conference

# Nova Scotia Disability Facts

- 30.4% of Nova Scotians have a disability
  - Highest in Canada – national avg. is 23%
  - 43% NS seniors have a disability
  - High un/under employment rate
- Many barriers in way for disabled to participate in community
  - Employment barriers
  - Education barriers
  - Social inclusion barriers
- It contributes to:
  - Under-utilization of our most important resource – People
  - Health care and Social service costs
  - Loneliness

# Facts

- Biggest Barriers are:
  - Attitudinal
  - Lack of Awareness in general population
- Skilled labour supply a business concern
  - *Skilled Disabled workers available*
- Lots of support available for Employers
  - Employment support
  - 'Accommodation' support
- What can we do to improve situation?
- Person with Disabilities (PWD) participation in our society is a HUMAN RIGHT
- **PWD a huge market**