**Sample letter to MLA:**

Dear [Name of MLA]

As your constituent, I am writing to express my opposition to and significant concern about the current treatment of young adults with physical disabilities by the Government of Manitoba.

I am shocked that people with physical disabilities in Manitoba lose most of the services that allow them to thrive as children and youth when they turn 18. Before graduating from high school or turning 18 years old, young persons with physical disabilities enjoy a suite of supports that foster their social inclusion. These supports make it possible to be with friends, work, volunteer, go to school and participate in social events.

Once these children turn 18, they are given two options: put up with only 55 hours of home care per week or live in a personal care home meant for seniors. Neither of these two options comes close to meeting the needs of adults with physical disabilities. These two options systematically exclude people from our community, making it impossible for them to engage in activities they previously did such as going to events, socializing, working, or going to school.

We expect our government to treat all citizens with dignity, and the current treatment of adults with physical disabilities shows that this is not the case. It is imperative that our government address the gaps in services for people with physical disabilities in Manitoba immediately - each day that passes is a day when someone is being kept from participating in our community and in the life they want to live.

In the absence of equality of opportunity with all other individuals, Manitoba cannot achieve its objective of being the "most improved province in Canada.”

*(Add personal anecdote or information)*

I urge the Government of Manitoba to:

* create a comprehensive plan, including legislation, policies and practices to implement supports and services that allow persons with severe physical disabilities to participate as full citizens and be included in society after the age of 18.
* recognize the importance of maintaining services that allow persons with physical disabilities to thrive and to live their lives with dignity.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]