



Communication Disabilities Access Canada

CDAC Update

February 2018

Communication Assistance

This project is funded by SDPP-D. CDAC is developing learning modules and guidelines to provide communication assistance for people who have communication disabilities and who need human support when communicating in certain situations.

Course for Communication Assistants

Over 1,100 people have registered for our online Communication Assistance Course that runs until February 28, 2018. The course is about ways to assist people with established communication methods. Registration is now closed.

Engaging Communication Assistants

We are currently developing a learning module for people who have communication disabilities about ways to request and direct their communication assistance and a module for organizations on how to provide communication assistants as an accommodation to access their services. These resources will be available over the next 10 months. [Click here for information about our Communication Assistance Course.](#)

Public Consultation on Federal Accessibility Legislation

CDAC is one of eight non-profit, disability organizations appointed by the federal government to provide input on its emerging accessibility legislation. Last year 2,200 Canadians responded to our survey about communication barriers and what they want to see in the new legislation. We have shared our report with the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities and we continue to work with the Accessibility Secretariat and our partner disability organizations to ensure that accessibility for people with communication disabilities is included in this emerging national accessibility legislation.

[Read our report to the Government of Canada](#)

Access to Justice Services

CDAC provides training and resources for Speech-Language Pathologists to work as Communication Intermediaries within police, legal and justice situations. [You can see our roster of Communication Intermediaries here.](#)

In 2017, with funding from the Law Society of Ontario, we have produced a report on [Communication Intermediary Services in Ontario](#). Although specific to the justice system in Ontario, it is relevant for justice services in other provinces and territories. Please share with police, legal and justice professionals.

Access to Healthcare Services

Barbara Collier, Executive Director of CDAC, is a member of Ontario's Health Care Standards Development Committee that is responsible for developing proposed regulations to ensure equal access to health care services for people with disabilities. The regulations will be shared with the public for input after they have been drafted. You can get updates and minutes from these meetings by going to the [government website here](#).

CDAC welcomes your input and suggestions on ways to advance social justice, accessibility and inclusion for all people who have speech, language and communication disabilities.

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