

## **What People who have Communication Disabilities want**

### **Communication Access Now, Launch, Toronto**

**February 20, 2014**

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| Barbara Collier | People with speech and language disabilities, tells us what they want from different sectors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Tony Diamanti   | This is Tracy she is going to read out my message.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Tracy Shepherd  | We want everyone to know that they should never ignore us. They should talk directly to us and not assume we can't hear or understand them. If it isn't obvious, people should ask us what to do when they are communicating with us. They should be patient and take the time to understand us.                                |
| Paul Marshall   | We want accessible health services. We can't get good health services unless the doctors, nurses, clinicians and receptionists know how to communicate with us. This is important for those of us who live with communication disabilities, but also for people in hospital who are unable to speak due to a medical condition. |
| Krystine Donato | We want accessible police services. Many of us experience safety concerns, crimes and abuse. We need to be able to communicate effectively about these matters to police, justice professionals and when in court.                                                                                                              |
| Nola Millin     | We want to work and we need accessible employment and training programs. Very few of us are gainfully employed. Most employment training programs don't know how to accommodate our unique communication requirements and our specialized technology. We want to work and we need accessible employment and training programs.  |
| Camille Todesco | We need accessible legal services. We may need communication assistants to help us communicate in important legal situations such as legal capacity assessments, appointing a power of attorney, making a will, giving consent to medical treatments, and advance care directives.                                              |

Krystine Donato      At the core of education is communication. Administrators, as well as teachers, need to understand that accessible education can only happen if there is appropriate training for teachers and educational assistants and if communication technology is readily available. At college and university communication access means there are trained communication assistants to speak out messages, assist with writing assignments and take notes.

Al Sunisloe      We need accessible government services. Like everyone we need to be able to communicate with government services and especially services that we use such as the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Paul Marshall      We need care providers, home makers, personal support workers, attendant services and nurses in long term care facilities to know how to communicate with those of us who use these services.

Thank you everyone.