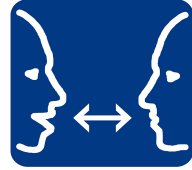


Communication Access Now



Your address

Date

Dear

I am writing for your support to make our community accessible for people who have speech and language disabilities. As you may know, accessibility legislation and guidelines obligate businesses and organizations to make their goods and services accessible to everyone. Creating a community where a person who has a disability can live and participate benefits everyone. However, the accessibility needs of people who have speech and language disabilities that are not caused by hearing loss, have not been adequately addressed in the legislation and guidelines. They can continue to experience barriers when using our community businesses and services.

Communication Access Now (CAN) is a national promotion strategy to increase awareness of communication access. It is important to know that:

- Access to goods and services includes effective communication.
- There are over half a million Canadians who have speech and language disabilities, not caused by hearing loss.
- People with speech and language disabilities can experience significant barriers to services because people do not know how to communicate with them. These barriers can have serious consequences.
- Businesses and organizations can do simple things to make their services accessible to people who have speech and language disabilities.
- Essential services (e.g. healthcare, emergency and justice services) where communication is critical, need training, communication tools and support services.

I invite you to participate in the CAN campaign by learning ways to make your services communication accessible <http://www.communication-access.org>

Sincerely