

Advancing Accessibility for Parents with Disabilities in Canada : Building Connections Through Community Networking Event



Parents with disabilities routinely encounter systematic and attitudinal barriers when seeking supports and services within federally regulated spaces and the wider community. Their voices are frequently marginalized or excluded from policy and practice decisions that directly affect their lives. Despite these challenges, existing facilitators of community engagement offer important opportunities for change underscoring the need to identify and strengthen these factors to better support families led by parents with disabilities



Research project overview : Promoting Family Inclusive Disability Standards Through the Experience of Parents and Caregivers with Disabilities

National partner : the Canadian Council of Disabilities, 7 provincial partners

This project is funded by **Accessibility Standards Canada** and explores the experiences of parents and caregivers with disabilities experience accessibility when interacting with federally regulated spaces and services in Canada. Using participatory, community-driven and adapted photovoice methodologies, families will share their perspectives on the barriers and supports related to transportation (i.e. airports, federally regulated ferries) and federally regulated services and spaces (i.e. national museums, national parks, banks, passport offices). Findings will inform recommendations for accessibility standards that better address family needs, helping to create more inclusive policies and environments across Canada.

Community building and knowledge mobilization event

The primary aim of this event at the Aloft Hotel University in Calgary is to foster meaningful exchange of research and practical knowledge with key stakeholders from different sectors (parents with lived experience, community organizations, outdoor recreation services, government, academics) in Alberta and across the country in order to create an accessibility and federally regulated services, community, recreation and family life.

Participants : Parents with disabilities, researchers, partners, government, community organizations, private adaptive equipment organizations.

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Schedule

9:30am Welcome & Introductions

10:00am Who are parent with disabilities - what spaces do they need?

- Why are we here and why is it important to consider parents with disabilities in accessibility standards ?
- Exploring evidence in the field of parents with disabilities
- Sharing testimonials

12:00pm Lunch and Networking

1:30pm Focus Groups event

Different stakeholders will be asked to share about their knowledge and experiences around barriers and facilitators when a parent has a disability

- What would it look like when everything is made accessible for families with disabilities ?

3:30 pm Future Steps : what could be done to make this happen ?



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If you have any questions or are interested to participate please send an email to marjorieaunos@gmail.com and familyaccess@mun.ca