

## CAIP Innovative Attitude Change Project Proposal - Advancing Access and Inclusion

<b>Project Title:</b> Discrepancy Awareness: What we say, what we think, and what we do
<b>Submitted by:</b> CDPA team and Atul Jaiswal
<b>Sector Targeted for Attitude Change:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Employers, <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (preschool – Grade 12), <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community (geographic community or community of interest) Employers, Youth, & Community
<b>Specific Audience To Be Reached:</b> Non-disabled society at large
<b>Specific Attitude To Be Established:</b> Making non-disabled people of Canada realize their stereotypes, prejudices, and biases towards disability and then how those can be changed to advance access and promote inclusion of people with disabilities.
<b>Geographic Reach:</b> Across the nation
<b>Project Description Summary:</b> The project includes development of a set of case scenarios with questions on catching people on their biases about disability. The questions will be asked to elicit responses why non-disabled person acts, behaves, or thinks in a particular way in a given case scenario from day to day life. For example, a question could be asked to the audience that what they do when they see a person with visual impairment trying to cross the road. Majority will respond that they will go and help the person to cross the road. Then, we need to ask another question that whether they have ever come across any news that a person with visual impairment or blindness was hit on road while crossing the road. They will say “No” as there are hardly any incident like that when a person with visual impairment was hit on road because of his inability to see. Then, we need to probe further why the non-disabled person thought at first place that the person with visual impairment cannot cross the road on their own and who told them to go and help them to cross the road. Do they really first ask to the person with visual impairment that they would need any help to cross the road. Then, gradually we can give more case scenarios like this ad asks questions to elicit their biases, prejudices, and stereotypes. Once people are made aware and realize that there is a discrepancy between their thinking and action/behavior, they could be sensitized to change their biases, prejudices, and stereotypes with a positive behavior/thinking towards persons with disabilities. For example in this case scenario, they would be informed how they could have approached the person with visual impairment and offered their help to cross the road. If the person said “Yes”, then they could walk with the person to help. In this way, they could realize their own internalized attitude towards disability and replace that with a more –informed and positive attitude towards people with disabilities. This project would take less than half an hour per session with any audience (employers, youth, and community) and does not require any finances or resources except the resource person, venue and audience.
<b>Project Outcomes:</b> Making non-disabled people realize their stereotypes, prejudices, and biases towards disability and then how those can be changed to advance access and promote inclusion of people with disabilities.
<b>Project Lead and Partners:</b> CAIP and CDPA