



CAIP Phase 1 Summary

In the late spring of 2016, the Government of Canada, through the Ministry of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, invited proposals from disability organizations to establish networks of disability organizations in order to lead coordinated consultations within their constituencies, with the specific intent of reaching as wide a range of people with disabilities as possible, and creating cross-disability cooperation that endures well beyond the life of the consultation.

To take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to provide input for this critically needed accessibility and inclusion legislation, Spinal Cord Injury Canada quickly mobilized 32 well-known organizations of and for people with disabilities and older adults to form the Canadian Access and Inclusion Project (CAIP). In the fall of 2016, CAIP was one of eight projects awarded federal funding to conduct a community-based consultation to provide the Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, with an accurate snapshot of the barriers preventing full participation of our respective memberships, along with suggestions for new federal accessibility legislation.

The objective of the first phase of the CAIP project was to learn from Canadians with disabilities and older adults about the barriers that prevent Canada from being a fully accessible and inclusive society and what needs to change to make our country more accessible and inclusive to all.

In January 2017, CAIP project partners hosted 52 consultations in communities across the country, including one consultation dedicated to youth with disabilities. In addition, 10 workshops were held within First Nations Communities. An online survey version of the consultation was also available for those who were not able to participate in the in-person consultations and workshops. In all, 995 people contributed their experiences, wisdom and ideas through the consultations and workshops. Importantly, participants included Canadians with disabilities who are hard to reach or whose input is infrequently captured. Another 60 people shared their stories and ideas on the Rant, Rave and Recommend feature of the project's website, include-me.ca.

Through a structured research process, CAIP's academic research partners analyzed the consultation input and identified common sets of barriers and areas in which changes could overcome these barriers to make Canada more accessible and inclusive. These include:

- Lack of public awareness, knowledge, and training were consistently identified as barriers, and were also identified as areas where more funding is required to support making Canada fully accessible and inclusive—these are areas that need to be changed.
- Insufficient infrastructure and services were also consistently identified as barriers—these areas require more funding was required to support changes to make Canada accessible and inclusive.

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- Several legislation-related issues and considerations were identified through the consultations, including the need for national standards and equity, accountability, transparency, and representation by people with disabilities and indigenous people to be in the legislative processes.
- Lack of housing and transitional barriers (as youth age into adulthood) were brought to the fore in the First Nations community workshops and the youth consultation, respectively. Employment was brought forward as one of the top priorities put forward by participants in the youth consultation.

The results of phase one will now be used to inform the consultation plan for phase two, which will focus on how the identified priority issues faced by Canadians with disabilities can be addressed and how the federal government can employ its policy and legislative tools to create a Canada that is accessible and inclusive of all Canadians.

Phase two activities will include additional consultations with private and public sector stakeholders with expertise in the identified priority areas as well as those with expertise in fields such as legislation and policy development. In addition, CAIP's partner organizations will participate in a think tank aimed at exploring bold and innovative ways of changing attitudes to improve access and inclusion in Canada.

To view the report and all of the input received from each of the 62 consultations and workshops, please visit include-me.ca.