



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
Association des malentendants canadiens

Spotlight on Invisible Disabilities: Federal Accessibility Legislation Consultations Consultation Fact Sheet

Mission :

The mission of the **Spotlight on Invisible Disabilities: Community Consultations on Accessibility Legislation** project is to conduct consultations with members of our partner organizations and the public that will inform new federal accessibility legislation.

Consultation Overview:

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), leading a partnership of 18 organizations whose members and mandates have an interest in accessibility legislation, is conducting consultations with members of partner organizations and the public. The goal of these consultations is to deeply engage with participants to determine the issues accessibility legislation must address and how accessibility legislation can bring federal institutions in Canada closer to achieving the goal of barrier free access for all. Social isolation, discrimination, and lack of access to healthcare services are just some of the social issues and challenges identified by our members as barriers to full participation in Canadian society. This project seeks to address these issues by examining the barriers to access facing Canadians with disabilities, listening to those with disabilities explain their needs in their own words, and giving voice to those concerns in order to influence legislation at the federal level.

Target Population :

All members of the public are invited to participate in consultation activities. Consultation activities , discussions and [online surveys](#) for this project are focused on invisible disabilities, including hearing disabilities, learning disabilities, and mental health challenges.

Consultation Tactics:

Consultation participants are invited to examine the challenges facing Canadians with disabilities in times of transition, particularly:

- (1)** youth as they transition from high school to university and university to the workplace;
- (2)** veterans as they transition from service to civilian life; and
- (3)** seniors as they transition out of the workforce and into retirement and healthy aging.

Existing Legislation:

While Canada does not yet have an overarching act protecting the rights of those with disabilities, there are a number of laws in place relating to disability rights and accessibility, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Human Rights Act, and the Employment Equity Act. Additionally, the Government of Canada has standards and regulations to improve accessibility and remove barriers for Canadians with disabilities in areas such as broadcasting, telecommunications and transportation.

The Limits of Legislation:

A report will be generated from these consultations that will inform federal accessibility legislation. Within federal jurisdiction, accessibility legislation could apply to: Parliament of Canada; Departments, Agencies and Institutions of the Government of Canada; Federal Crown corporations; Federally-regulated businesses and industries (e.g. banking, broadcasting, cross-border transportation); Federal courts; Canadian Armed Forces; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and other federal lands. Areas under city or provincial jurisdiction are not a focus of these consultations. However, we hope that the federal legislation will serve as a basis for future reforms and improvements to accessibility laws and regulations throughout Canada.

Project Lead:

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)

Advisory Committee:

Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC);
National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS);
Royal Canadian Legion (RCL);
Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW); and
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).

Partners:

Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind;
Canadian Deaf Blind Association;
Communicaid for Hearing-Impaired Persons;
The Hearing Foundation of Canada;
Canadian Academy of Audiology;
Brain Injury Canada;

ARCH Disability Law Centre;
Media Access Canada;
Inclusive Design Research Centre, OCAD University;
Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion;
Canadian Mental Health Association- Ontario
Neil Squire Society;
Mental Health Commission of Canada;

CHHA Chapters and Branches :

CHHA Moncton Branch;
CHHA Western NL Branch;
CHHA Quebec Chapter;
CHHA Hamilton Branch;
CHHA National Capital Region Branch;
CHHA Sudbury Branch;
CHHA York Branch;
CHHA Manitoba Chapter;
CHHA Yellowknife Branch;
CHHA Vancouver Branch;
CHHA Young Adults Network;

CHHA Regina and District Branch;
CHHA Saskatoon Branch;
CHHA Calgary Branch;
CHHA Edmonton Branch;
CHHA Lethbridge Branch;
CHHA BC Chapter;
CHHA BC Parents' Branch;
CHHA Chilliwack Branch;
CHHA Comox Valley Branch;
CHHA HEAR Branch;
CHHA North Shore Branch.

For more information, contact:

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