



SPOTLIGHT ON

# INVISIBLE DISABILITIES PROJECT

## SURVEY

By completing this survey, you give us permission to share your input with the Government of Canada.

The **Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)** and its 20 Spotlight Partners are seeking to consult and engage invisible disability stakeholders in Canada to provide information contributing to the development of **federal** accessibility legislation. The consultations will review current challenges and explore ways legislation can create an environment to provide all Canadians the resources to thrive as full participants in Canadian society.

An **invisible disability** is a disability that is not immediately apparent; a person with a disability shows no outward signs of their disability. For instance, some people with hearing loss, mental health or learning disabilities may not be obviously disabled without visible aids such as a service dog or a wheelchair. Invisible disabilities significantly affect normal activities of daily living.

CHHA and its partners will be conducting consultation sessions, a series of live webinars and providing an **online survey** to their members to capture over 400 000 responses that will contribute to a report to be submitted to the Government of Canada in March 2017. The project's goal is to identify and examine ways legislation can present opportunities to provide the support Canadians with invisible disabilities need to thrive in times of transition, in particular, for:

- (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.

You can get information about this survey by visiting the Spotlight Project [webpage](#).

You can email your survey to us at [reception@chha.ca](mailto:reception@chha.ca)

**You can mail it to us at:**

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
1415 Holly Lane, Suite 205, Ottawa, ON  
Deadline is **February 25th, 2017**.

**1. IN WHICH PROVINCE/TERRITORY DO YOU LIVE:**

- British Columbia
- North West Territories
- Yukon
- Nunavut
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island
- Nova Scotia
- Newfoundland and Labrador

**2. WHAT AGE GROUP DO YOU REPRESENT.**

- under 18
- 18 to 34
- 35 to 49
- 50 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65+
- Rather not say

**3. WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?**

- Female
- Male
- Another gender identity
- Prefer not to answer

**4. PLEASE TELL US WHO YOU ARE:**

- A person who has a disability
- A family member or friend of a person who has an invisible disability
- A clinician or service provider who supports a person who has an invisible disability
- A disability advocate
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH AN INVISIBLE DISABILITY, PLEASE STATE YOUR DISABILITY?**

- Hearing loss
- Mental Health
- Learning Disability
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. WHEN YOU INTERACT WITH THE PUBLIC, DO YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A PERSON WITH AN INVISIBLE DISABILITY?**

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Don't know

**7. WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR CURRENT SITUATION:?**

- A youth entering post-secondary education
- A youth transitioning into the workforce
- A veteran transitioning from service to civilian life
- A senior transitioning from work to retirement living
- None of the above

**8. DO YOU THINK MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IMPACT PEOPLE WITH AN INVISIBLE DISABILITY?  
EX: DEPRESSION, ANXIETY ETC.**

- YES
- NO

If yes, how is/was your daily life affected?

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**9. DO YOU FEEL THAT TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS HAVE HELPED THOSE WITH AN INVISIBLE DISABILITY?**

- YES
- NO

If so, what technologies would benefit you?

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**10. AS A PERSON WITH AN INVISIBLE DISABILITY, DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY IN A MEANINGFUL WAY? IE: EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION ETC.**

- YES
- NO

If not, what barriers exist that prevent you from succeeding in life?

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**11. THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS TO TREAT ALL CANADIANS EQUALLY. HAVE THEY ACHIEVED THAT?**

- YES
- NO

If not, how could the government make you feel more included?

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**12. CAN YOU SUGGEST HOW THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WILL ENFORCE THE ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION?**

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**13. IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE AREA WHERE THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO BEGIN TO CHANGE ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS, WHICH ONE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

- the built environment: ie: building codes and accessibility
- program and service delivery:
- the procurement of goods and services;
- employment;
- transportation; and
- information and communications.

# THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS SURVEY.

Please join us on Facebook or Twitter #CHHASpotlight  
to keep updated on our work with the Federal Government's accessibility legislation

[www.chha.ca](http://www.chha.ca)

## Spotlight on Invisible Disabilities Partners

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
Learning Disabilities Association of Canada  
National Educational Association of Disabled Students  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work  
Canadian Mental Health Association (National)  
Neil Squire Society  
ARCH Disability Law Centre  
Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion  
Canadian Academy of Audiology  
Communicaid for Hearing Impaired Persons  
Canadian Deafblind Association (National)  
Brain Injury Association of Canada  
Inclusive Design Research Centre, OCAD University  
Media Access Canada  
Mental Health Commission of Canada  
Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind  
Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario)  
Speech-Language & Audiology Canada  
Canadian Hard of Hearing Foundation