

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Presentation to the York Region
Accessibility Advisory
Committee

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April 21, 2010

Overview

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What is the Convention?

- ❑ The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement by countries around the world to make sure that persons with disabilities are treated equally.



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Definition of Disability

- ❑ The Convention adopts a social model of disability, and defines disability as including;
'Those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis.'



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Rights specified in the Convention

- ❑ Persons with disabilities are routinely denied the following basic rights;
 - ❑ Receiving an education;
 - ❑ Moving around freely;
 - ❑ Living independently in the community;
 - ❑ Getting jobs, even when well qualified;
 - ❑ Accessing information;
 - ❑ Obtaining proper health care;
 - ❑ Exercising political rights, such as voting; and
 - ❑ Making their own decisions.



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General Principles

There are 8 guiding principles that underlie the Convention;

- ❑ Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- ❑ Non-discrimination;
- ❑ Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- ❑ Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- ❑ Equality of opportunity;
- ❑ Accessibility;
- ❑ Equality between men and women; and
- ❑ Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.



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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- ❑ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a body of human rights experts tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Convention.



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What Does this Mean for Canada?

- ❑ Canada agrees to promote and ensure the full realization of fundamental freedoms.
- ❑ Countries, including Canada must;
 - ❑ Adopt legislation to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities;
 - ❑ Adopt legislation to abolish discrimination;
 - ❑ Protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programs;
 - ❑ Stop any practice that breaches the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - ❑ Ensure that the public sector respects the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - ❑ Ensure that the private sector and individuals respect the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - ❑ Undertake research and development of accessible goods, services and technology for persons with disabilities;
 - ❑ Provide accessible information about assistive technology;
 - ❑ Promote training on the rights of the Convention; and
 - ❑ Consult with and involve persons with disabilities.



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What Does this Mean for Persons with Disabilities?

- Persons with disabilities are no longer considered as victims or patients, they are persons with rights and a full role to play in society.



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Resources for further information

United Nations Secretariat for the
Convention on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities

www.un.org/disabilities

www.ohchr.org

www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org



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Thank you

Any Questions



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