



DAWN Canada

Ticking a box, or building a movement?

Intersectional Barriers & Challenges
for People with disabilities

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CoSP 2019

United Nations, New York

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DAWN Canada - DisAbled Women's Network Canada

• ABOUT DAWN CANADA - Mission •

- Our mission is to end the poverty, isolation, discrimination and violence experienced by Canadian women with disabilities and Deaf women.
- For nearly 35 years, DAWN Canada has worked towards the advancement and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women by creating change at a systemic level. This includes building strategic partnerships, developing curriculum and educational tools, and addressing policy change.

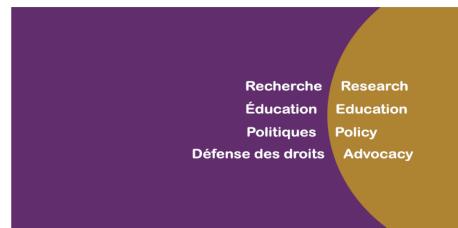


DAWN Canada - DisAbled Women's Network Canada



• ABOUT DAWN CANADA – How we work •

- Grounded in the lived experiences of women with disabilities and Deaf women, and using an evidence-based approach, DAWN Canada works to create change at a systemic level in order to directly improve the quality of life for women with disabilities.
- We amplify the voice of women with disabilities and Deaf women by ensuring that they are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter most, including violence prevention, health equity, and access to justice.
- We work to increase the capacity of women with disabilities and Deaf women in their communities to support their leadership in articulating their needs.



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OUR APPROACH

FOUR PILLARS

RESEARCH

EDUCATION

POLICY

ADVOCACY

We work with community-based researchers and academic partners to shift the discussion around how research and community development can and should be done using an intersectional approach.

We work with partners, sharing research in order to develop curriculum and tools to deepen knowledge and skill in the practice of intersectionality and inclusion to a range of stakeholders.

We continue to challenge and engage policy-makers in the review and development of policies so that they are informed by community-defined needs.

We are committed to ensuring that the voices of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women and girls are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter to us most. **NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**

The need for an intersectional lens

The need for an intersectional lens

Women with disabilities who experience violence as children are almost two times as likely as those who had not experienced physical abuse to be victimized in the last 12 months.

In general, women with disabilities who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual experience 2.3 times higher rates of violence than among heterosexual women with disabilities.

Women who experience mental health related disabilities and those with cognitive disabilities experience disproportionately high rates of sexual assault.

Aboriginal women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and thus bigger targets for sexual predators.

Indigenous children with disabilities remain one of the most oppressed groups in Canada

Where refugees are concerned, women and girls remain exposed to sexual violence due to long processing times and a lack of laws to protect them from human trafficking.



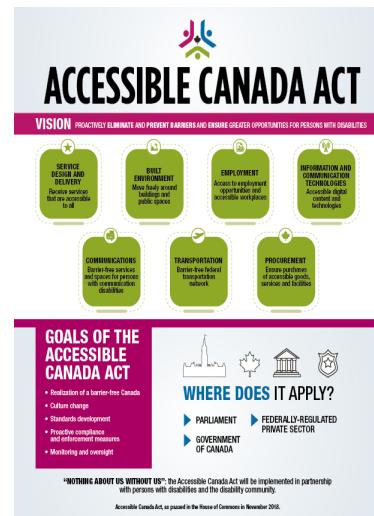
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The Accessible Canada Act

The Accessible Canada Act enshrines the rights of the millions of Canadians that live with disabilities and recognizes intersectional discrimination in law by referencing the specific marginalization(s) that create additional barriers for some Canadians with disabilities more than others.



"Laws, policies, programs, services and structures must take into account disability and the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities,"



Canada

More than half of all
discrimination complaints in Canada are about
disability.
Canadians with disabilities face disproportionately
high levels of discrimination in employment AND
when receiving services.

Canadian Human Rights Commission:
http://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/chrc_un_crpd_report_eng.pdf



According to the Canadian Survey on
Disability released in 2018 by
Statistics Canada, **24% of**
women in Canada live
with a disability.



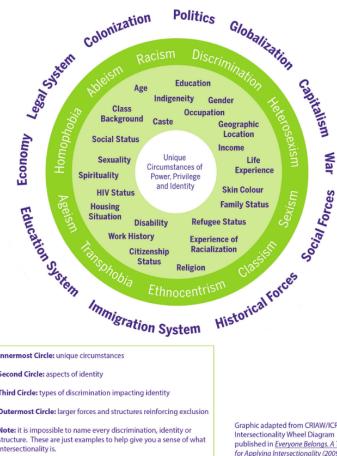
Audit and reform of policies and regulatory bodies

- An intersectional lens.
 - Intersectionality must include disability.
 - Ableism is a form of oppression that must be named.
- A cross-disability lens.
 - All women with disabilities and Deaf women should be included and explicitly named.
- Funding and resources to implement reforms need to be put in place on a priority basis.

Indigenous understandings of connectedness and 'all my relations' share many links with intersectionality.



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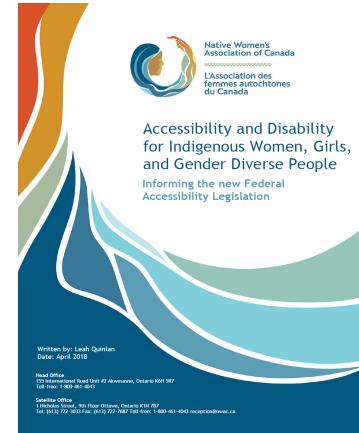


Source FACT SHEET 2: INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN AND PRECARITY
<http://www.criaw-icref.ca/images/userfiles/files/FS%20FINAL.pdf>

RESEARCH

"The concept of impairment is culturally constructed. The Western version of impairment is based on how you are not able to contribute to the economy; the institutional "accommodations" then are constructed around rehabilitating a person to become economically viable. This becomes another form of assimilation that, as an Indigenous person, I feel acutely." – NWAC survey participant (2017)

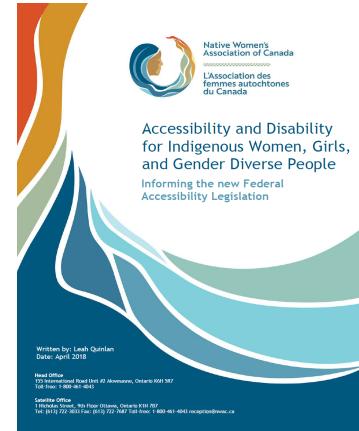
"I would like to see cultural/spiritual support that is centralized and that I can use in every day situations...in a practical way with all my family members. As in one place that can support all my needs and the needs of my family members. They all need support and so do I to continue supporting them".
– NWAC survey participant (2017)



RESEARCH

"I would like to see an affirmation or recognition of Indigenous people's rights to uphold our own concepts of disability and by doing so, our own treatment plans and interventions. I would like these to be considered equally legitimate to Western conception and resourced accordingly. This should also be upheld in all support services – not just medical supports – including educational institutions and workplaces." – NWAC survey participant (2017)

"Often Indigenous folks are criminalized for their mental health disabilities...a huge number of Indigenous women who are incarcerated have brain injuries or mental health disorders. My personal experience accessing mental health supports was very traumatic and completely dismissive of my culture and identity as an Indigenous woman" – NWAC survey participant (2017)



CANADIAN WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AND ACCESS TO SHELTERS & TRANSITION HOUSES



Disabled Women's Network of Canada/
Réseau d'action des femmes
handicapées Canada

Parliamentary Brief

- Disability is the one intersection that all women in Canada may experience at some point in their lives, regardless of any other factor and it goes beyond race, class, sexual orientation or geography.

Women with Disabilities and
Access to Shelters and Transition Houses

A Brief Prepared for the Standing Committee on the Status of Women in Canada (FEWO) for their Study of the System of Shelters and Transition Houses in Canada

Researcher: Sonia Allin

Editing and content development - Sandhya Singh and Bonnie Brayton

November 14, 2018

<https://buff.ly/2BuoxHa>

CANADIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING



DisAbled Women's Network of Canada
Réseau d'action des femmes handicapées Canada

Parliamentary Brief

- Collect disaggregated data on all forms of human trafficking
- Use an intersectional approach in the analysis of human trafficking

Canadian Women and Girls with Disabilities and Human Trafficking

A Brief Prepared for the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights for their study on Human Trafficking in Canada

Researchers: Sonia Alimi and Mikayla Celine Ague

Editor: Sandhya Singh

June 15, 2018

<https://buff.ly/2qdgh8s>

HEALTH ISSUES FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Disabled Women's Network of Canada/
Réseau d'action des femmes handicapées Canada

Parliamentary Brief

- Disability and LGBTQ issues are often treated as separate. But people with disabilities can also be members of the LGBTQ community.
- In examining the healthcare needs of members of the LGBTQ community, disability (as well as age, ethnicity, gender, etc.) must also be considered.

Health Issues for LGBTQ2 People with Disabilities

A Brief Prepared for the Standing Committee on Health (HESO) for
their study on LGBTQ2 Health in Canada

Researchers: Sonia Alimi and Jihan Abbas

May 2, 2019

GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS (GBA+)



- The Government of Canada has committed to using GBA+ in the development of policies, programs and legislation across all departments.
- In reality, this is still a work in progress, as not all departments or Senate & Parliamentary Committees routinely apply this analysis to their work.

POLICY

ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS THROUGH POLICY CHANGE



What do women with disabilities and Deaf women in Rural Canada need?

Application of the Intersectional lens (GBA+) to policies and programs that impact women with disabilities and Deaf women at each level of Government (Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal) with a particular attention to Municipal services in the rural context:

- ★ Access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services; suicide prevention services and rehabilitation services;
- ★ Peer support and access to frontline VAW resources;
- ★ Access to employment and income supports;
- ★ Culturally sensitive services for Indigenous women;
- ★ Accessible housing and infrastructure, including accessible transportation;

What can you do?

Join us in supporting rural women with disabilities and Deaf women in Canada.

Subscribe to our CALL TO ACTION mailing list by sending an email to morethanafootnote@dawncanada.net

#MoreThanAFootnoteWWD

DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada
Toll free: 1-866-396-0074
www.dawncanada.net
facebook.com/DAWNRAFHCCanada
twitter.com/DAWNRAFHCCanada



MORE THAN A FOOTNOTE *

Women with disabilities and Deaf women are the largest minority group in the world. They experience multiple forms of discrimination, systemic, structural, psychological and interpersonal.

Women with disabilities and Deaf women in Canada experience rates of violence nearly twice higher than that of non-disabled women.

Most policies and programs related to gender-based violence and disability are gender-based. This is problematic and then, because there is a hierarchy, women with disabilities are often left out of programs and services.

GAPS IN CURRENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Violence Against Women: Policies do not mention women with disabilities or Deaf women.

Accessibility policies do not address violence or women with disabilities.

The result is that there are no programs and policies specifically focused on violence against women with disabilities and Deaf women.

Join our call to action to ensure that women with disabilities and Deaf women are included in all violence prevention strategies, policies, programs and services!

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MORE THAN A FOOTNOTE *

Disability is the one intersection that all women in Canada may experience at some point in their lives, regardless of any other factors and goes beyond age, race, class, sexual orientation or geography.

What do women with disabilities and Deaf women have to say about GBA+ the Government of Canada's current policy analysis tool ??? Stop calling it a plus (+). Intersectional means intersecting, not adding and WE are not a plus!

CALL TO ACTION:

- We should be more than a footnote in policy because we are the largest minority group of women in Canada and the world!
- Since 2012 the majority of human rights complaints in Canada have been disability related.
- The rate of disability for Indigenous women in Canada is estimated to be higher than 30%.
- Research shows that women with disabilities, especially racialized and Indigenous women are over-represented in prisons in Canada – stop criminalizing victims!
- Rural and Northern women with disabilities urgently need accessible housing, infrastructure and transportation.

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