



DAWN Highlights 2016-2017



DisAbled Women's Network of Canada
215-469 Jean Talon W. Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3N 1R4
communications@dawncanada.net

POLICY REFORM



Government of Canada's Advisory Council on Gender-based Violence

Bonnie Brayton, National Executive Director of DAWN Canada, was appointed for a two-year term to the [Advisory Council on Gender-based Violence](#). The Advisory Council's task is to support the development of the Government of Canada's Federal Strategy on Gender-based Violence. It will serve as a forum to exchange views, promising practices and research on issues related to gender-based violence.



Rethinking the Social Development Partnership Program – Disability Component (SDPP-D)

Bonnie Brayton was appointed as co-chair of the Office for Disability Issues' (ODI) committee to rethink the SDPP-D funding framework. This program has traditionally provided operational funding to national disability organizations.

Disability and Development

Bonnie Brayton participated in a roundtable related to Critical Reflections on Disability and Global Development, a partnership of [researchers](#), disabled peoples' organizations and policy makers which will create and share knowledge about the situations of people with disabilities in global development, particularly in post-disaster situations.

CEDAW Consultations

DAWN Canada participated in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) consultation in Ottawa. It was an opportunity to connect with other civil society organizations and representatives from federal, provincial and territorial governments in regards to the implementation of the CEDAW.



CRPD Implementation

In order to ensure gender equity is included in Canada's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):

- DAWN Canada participated in a meeting between civil society, Indigenous organizations and federal, provincial and territorial governments in preparation for Canada's appearance before the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and
- Gave input on planned national accessibility legislation and on Canada's possible accession to the CRPD Optional Protocol.

Economic Security of Women in Canada

DAWN Canada submitted a [parliamentary brief](#) to the parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women (known as FEWO) on Economic Security of Women in Canada, in collaboration with PhD student Sonia Alimi.

Putting Disability Rights at the center of the Human Rights Agenda

Bonnie Brayton, National Executive Director of DAWN Canada, participated in different meetings with the Canadian Human Rights Commission's representatives in order to ensure that disability is central to the Canadian Human Rights agenda.

Legislation, Policy and Service Responses to Violence against Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women

DAWN Canada is currently in year two of a three-year project that aims to address secondary or systemic violence against women with disabilities and Deaf women. In the first phase of the project, we are examining existing legislation, policy and services related to violence prevention to uncover the underlying gaps that lead to these secondary forms of violence and to highlight any good practices we find. This Pan Canadian project is focused in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia and is funded by Status of Women Canada.

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) legislation

Carmela Hutchison, DAWN Canada's President, [spoke](#) before the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying to raise awareness of the vulnerability of women with disabilities in physician-assisted suicide.

OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIPS

“Girls without Barriers”

DAWN Canada and Girls Action Foundation began a [joint initiative](#) to respond to the realities of girls with disabilities and Deaf girls in Canada. Entitled *Girls without Barriers* this initiative is dedicated to the increasing participation of girls with disabilities in girl-serving programs by developing outreach, curriculum, peer support models and approaches that are responsive to all girls including girls with disabilities and Deaf girls aged 9 to 13 years old. Funded by the Canadian Women’s Foundation, this project also aims to shift the culture(s) of girls serving organizations to truly include girls with disabilities and Deaf girls.



“Youth the Future – Focusing on Women”

DAWN Canada is delighted to be partnering with the Canadian Centre for Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW) on a three-year pilot project in Quebec entitled [Youth the Future – Focusing on Women](#). Funded by Employment, Skills & Development Canada and focused on young women with disabilities and young

Deaf women, this project aims to provide skills training and job preparation and the opportunity to gain real job experience.

RESEARCH

CFICE’s Violence against Women Research Hub

DAWN Canada is part of the Violence Against Women research hub under [Community-First: Impacts of Community Engagement](#) (CFICE), a seven-year research project at Carleton University. The [Violence against women research hub](#) is focused on collaborative demonstration projects on violence against women, locally and nationally. DAWN Canada is leading a research project to develop tools to assist researchers in addressing the absence of women with disabilities/the intersectional lens in Violence against Women research and policy.

Women with Disabilities & Feminist Activism

DAWN Canada hosted Master's student Sonia Alimi whose thesis topic was the activism of Canadian women with disabilities in the feminist movement. Her final dissertation, entitled « Le militantisme des femmes en situation de handicap, ou la possibilité d'une convergence des luttes féministes ? » can be viewed here.



Campus Violence Survey on Deaf and Disabled women

The DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada and the National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS) began a [collaborative research](#) initiative to determine the prevalence of violence against women with disabilities and Deaf women on college and university campuses in Canada.

EDUCATION

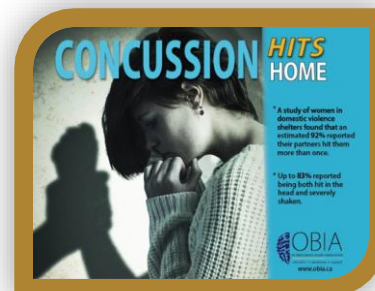


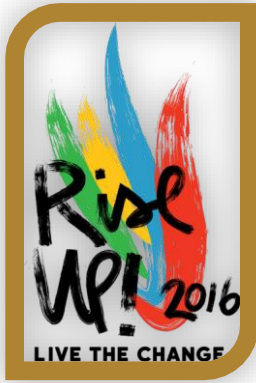
Mental Health at Work - La santé, ça nous travaille

Bonnie Brayton presented DAWN's experience with employees dealing with mental health problems during "Forum citoyen en santé mentale". This forum gathered employers and service providers who are in direct contact with employees dealing with mental health problems.

Battered and Brain injured: Identifying and supporting brain injured women survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

At the annual Brain Injury Association of Canada (BIAC) conference, Bonnie Brayton participated on a panel focused on training and education for service providers to address knowledge and service gaps, service provision planning and implementation strategies for survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.





Canadian Labour Congress Conference - Rise Up

Bonnie Brayton participated in a plenary session at the Canadian Labour Congress equity conference where she presented DAWN's strategy to address violence against women with disabilities to over 700 delegates.

CUPE Presentation

Bonnie Brayton presented a keynote address to the National Women's Committee of CUPE during a joint meeting with National Person with Disabilities Committee.

UNIFOR Ontario Region Council Meeting

Bonnie Brayton presented DAWN's strategy to tackle violence against women with disabilities.



In service for Health Care Professionals

Bonnie Brayton presented DAWN's Initiative "OUR HEALTH MATTERS" to the service providers at Toronto Sunnybrook Hospital. Our Health Matters is an education and awareness initiative aimed at service providers in order to ensure that they are better able to meet the needs of patients with disabilities.

Silent Tears – Australian Film Project



DAWN Canada met with Australian filmmakers and artists Denise Beckwith and Belinda Mason at the Maison Parent Roback in Montreal. These two women and their travelling project [SILENT TEARS](#) will culminate in an exhibit at the John Jay Gallery in New York in conjunction with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) in 2018. Silent Tears is a photo exhibit and film project about violence against women with disabilities.

PSAC National Equity Conference 2017

Bonnie Brayton presented a keynote at the PSAC National Equity Conference in Toronto. She also participated in a workshop to provide some insight for the participants on mental health issues for women with disabilities, as well as what can be done to support these workers.



EVA BC Training Forum 2016

Jewelless Smith, DAWN Canada's British Columbia Project Coordinator delivered a workshop on "Best Practices for Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women: Avoiding Secondary Violence Through Systemic Barriers" at The Ending Violence Association's (EVA BC) Annual Training Forum 2016.

ADVOCACY

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2016

DAWN Canada implemented our [annual campaign](#) on Breast Cancer Awareness during October 2016. The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness of the barriers faced by women with disabilities and Deaf women when accessing health services.

16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women



DAWN Canada conducted a Twitter Teach-in focused on violence against women and girls with disabilities as the most vulnerable minority that is forgotten in legislation, policy and services. Our campaign directed participants to our violence-prevention reports, articles, fact sheets, videos and other resources that are available on our website.

MEDIAPRESENCE

Equality means acknowledging marginalized women too

Bonnie Brayton's International Women's Day [blog](#) was published on Huff Post Canada. In this piece, Bonnie discusses the difference between equity and equality for women with disabilities.

Interview on Open Dialogue (AMI-Audio)

Bonnie Brayton was [interviewed](#) by AMI-Audio on violence against women with disabilities.

Interviews with Canal M Radio

On International Women's Day, Selma Kouidri conducted two interviews with Canal M Radio, one on intersectionality and disability "[C'est bon pour la santé](#)" and a second on violence against women with disabilities "[Accès Libre](#)".