



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

Annual Report
2018 / 2019



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President's Message



Kathy Hawkins
President, DAWN Canada

It's my pleasure to write this message as President of DAWN Canada on behalf of our Board of Directors. This past year has been a phenomenal experience as women with disabilities came together from across Canada to join our Board and provide governance, direction, and leadership to women and young girls we serve.

This has been an extra special year for me personally being involved with this incredible organization again, given my previous connections as the National Coordinator from 1998 – 2003 and now serving as President is a “full-circle” moment for me.

During this year, our Board and Committees have met on a regular basis working towards the advancement of women and girls with disabilities. The Governance Committee have reviewed our bylaws and articles of incorporation developing recommendations for updates and amendments. The Human Resources Committee has worked on drafting amendments to our HR Policies as well as developed new roles and responsibilities of employees as DAWN Canada expands and grows, and the Research Committee has met on a regular basis developing research grants and strategies to advance research on issues such as gender based violence and impacts on women and girls with disabilities.

The 2018-2019 fiscal year is one of milestones. In March DAWN Canada launched our report, *More Than a Footnote: A Research Report on Women and Girls with Disabilities in Canada*. In this report, we have created a more fulsome picture of issues faced by women and young girls with disabilities in Canada.



Internationally, DAWN Canada representatives were selected to be a part of the official Government of Canada delegation of the UN Convention on the Status of Women and traveled to UNCSW63 in New York. During these meetings we cohosted a side event with the Government of Canada on the importance of intersectional research and policy development.

While 2018-2019 was extremely exciting for our organization with our work and developments, it was also extremely sad for our organization as we said our final farewell to our former President, Carmela Hutchison. Carmela was a powerful feminist disability activist who spent more than ten years providing us leadership and advanced the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Canada. Carmela was instrumental in developing our head office in Montreal back in 2006 and worked for many years with our National Executive Director, shaping our organization, developing policies and procedures which are now the foundations of DAWN Canada. We will be forever grateful for all of Carmela's work that will continue to guide us for many years to come.

As you go through this impressive Annual Report and learn about how our organization has grown both nationally and internationally, please know that all this work would not have happened without the dedication and passion of the individuals who work at our national office under the stellar leadership of our National Executive Director, Bonnie Brayton. The Board is extremely grateful for your intense passion to make sure the voices of women and girls with disabilities are heard at every discussion and we send our sincerest thanks to each of you.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Hawkins

President, DAWN Canada



National Executive Director's Report



Bonnie Brayton
National Executive Director,
DAWN Canada

During 2018-2019 DAWN Canada continued our work to represent the voices of Canadian women and girls with disabilities through our research, education, policy and advocacy activities.

We had a meaningful opportunity to raise our concerns regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities through a bilateral meeting in April 2018 with United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, (UNSRV) Ms. Dubravka Šimonović and her team. In our meeting and subsequent report, DAWN Canada pointed out that Canada has failed to act on the issue of violence against women and girls

with disabilities. We noted emerging evidence that indicates that women in Canada and around the world become disabled through violence in much higher numbers than appears in current statistics, which has significant implications for both policy and direct services.

Serving on the federal government's [Advisory Council on the Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence](#) provides us with another opportunity to influence policy. Our interventions on this Council has led to changes in data collection, research and calls for proposals from the Department on Women and Gender Equality.

Other policy interventions included three parliamentary briefs, on trafficking, housing and senior women, which we prepared and submitted to the relevant parliamentary committees.

Most significant for us this year was the release of our report: *More Than A Footnote: A Research Report on Women and Girls with Disabilities in*



Canada in March 2019. We intend for this report to serve as an evidence-based platform to develop coordinated policy and programmatic responses to the barriers that women and girls with disabilities face.

In March 2019, I had the honour to present at the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) Gathering focused on Gender Based Violence.

We were engaged in three projects this year, two of them focussed on girls and young women with disabilities.

Girls Without Barriers is in its third year and focuses on increasing programming for 9-13 year old girls with disabilities and Deaf girls, and also increasing their participation in existing girl-serving programs.

We also continued **Youth the future - Focusing on Women**, a job placement program which supports young women with disabilities ages 15 – 30 to become job-ready. We are supporting this project through a partnership with the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW).

This year we began a new project **Do the Rights Thing**, which aims to develop responses to the systemic barriers to services and employment experienced by women with disabilities and Deaf women. This project will also demonstrate the social and economic benefits of equitable hiring and inclusive service provision. Our key partner on this project is CCRW and our three local implementing partners are the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS), ARCH Disability Law Centre and the Table des groupes de femmes de Montréal.



Bonnie Brayton giving a presentation next to a “More Than a Footnote” retractable banner



We continue to use traditional and social media to bring our issues to the attention of the general public. We undertook a major new social media campaign this year during National Accessibility Awareness Week, through funding from the Office for Disability Issues. During the year our then President Carmela Hutchison responded to Robert Latimer's request for a pardon by reminding us through her published blogs that violence against women and girls with disabilities is perpetuated and state sanctioned.

DAWN Canada and the entire disability community in Canada experienced a great loss when Carmela Hutchison died in August of 2019, shortly after her retirement from our board in January 2019. Carmela had served as our President since 2006, but when we announced her departure from DAWN Canada and our great appreciation for her many years of leadership and service, we were in no way prepared for this depth of loss. Carmela's legacy to Canadians with disabilities, especially women, lives on in the countless lives she touched.



Bonnie Brayton at the Gender Equality Network Canada conference, hosted by the Canadian Women's Foundation

We also bid farewell to two long-standing board members, Zelda Rempel (Saskatchewan) and Shelley Breau (PEI) and also to Eva Beaudoin (Manitoba). We welcomed four members: Kathleen Thompson (Treasurer, Saskatchewan), Jana Hussein (British Columbia), Isabelle Ducharme (Quebec) and Kathy Hawkins (Newfoundland) as our new

president. Kathy previously served as DAWN Canada's Coordinator from June 1998 to October 2003.



More details about our work can be found within the pages of this report, which once again reflect the hard work and dedication of our staff and board to Canadian women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women and girls.

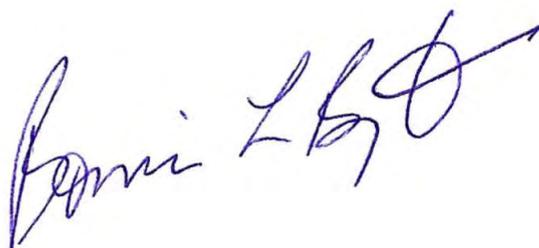
Financial Summary

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, we received a modest amount of operational funding from Employment and Social Development Canada, through the Office for Disability Issues, and project funding from the Department of Women and Gender Equality for *Do the Rights Thing*.

We also received donations from the Canadian Federation of Nurses Union, the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada, along with salary subsidies from the Province of Quebec. As well, we received an important donation from an anonymous supporter that provided critical infrastructure funding which allowed us to continue.

Despite this, we closed the year with a cumulative deficit of \$92,000, which is linked to the delay in the SDPP-D operational funding (ESDC) originally slated to be rolled out in 2015. Originally allocated at \$80,000 per year, the previous government reduced our funding year over year resulting in this deficit.

In solidarity,



Bonnie Brayton

National Executive Director, DAWN Canada



Key Accomplishments: April 2018 to March 2019

DAWN Canada's work is focused around four areas – research, education, policy and advocacy. This is a summary of our key accomplishments in each of these areas over the past 12 months.

Research

We work with academic and community based researchers to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are included in both feminist and disability research, through the use of an intersectional approach.

DAWN Canada releases major report on women and girls with disabilities

On March 8th, DAWN Canada released a major research report. *More Than A Footnote: A Research Report on Women and Girls with Disabilities in Canada* covers all aspects of the lives of women and girls with disabilities - social exclusion, education, employment, violence, sexual and reproductive rights, among others. The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility issued



Nelly Bassily at an event for women and girls



a [statement](#) to launch the report on March 8, International Women’s Day. DAWN Canada also produced slap bracelets and data sticks with copies of the report which we continue to distribute to government and community stakeholders. More details about the report can be found on [this](#) page.

Education

We undertake various activities that help raise awareness of issues of concern to women with disabilities. These include attending and presenting at conferences and events, conducting training or workshops, and using our social media platforms to conduct awareness campaigns.

Audit at Interval House done in April 2018

Karine Myrgianie Jean-François conducted an audit of Interval House on behalf of DAWN Canada. Based in Toronto, [Interval House](#) is Canada’s first centre for women survivors of intimate partner violence and their children. As an expert in accessible shelters through the [National Accessibility and Accommodation Survey](#), DAWN Canada was asked for an audit of Interval House so they are more accessible. A report was sent out to Interval House with recommendations for a more accessible space for women with disabilities and Deaf women.

Blackness, Gender and Disability

In recognition of Black History Month, DAWN Canada asked Black women with disabilities to share their reflections and analysis of how race, gender and disability intersect. Through blog posts, Karine-Myrgianie Jean-François discussed Blackness, gender and disability and Laurie S. Alphonse talked about how she negotiates these identities on a day to day basis.



National Shelter Conference June 14, 2018

DAWN representatives Bonnie Brayton, Karine-Myrgianie Jean-Francois, Selma Koudiri and Yin Brown presented on a panel at Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) first national shelter conference. Their presentation focussed on sharing the regional findings of our project "Legislation, Policy and Service Responses to Violence Against Women."

Pardoning Father Who Killed Disabled Daughter Would Set Dangerous Precedent, July 2018

Carmela Hutchison, DAWN Canada's then President wrote blogs for Huffington Post and Rabble on why pardoning Robert Latimer would legitimize violence against women with disabilities and set a dangerous precedent.

Centre for Families, Work and Well-being (CFWW) 20th Anniversary Celebration

In November 2018, Bonnie Brayton participated in a conference hosted by the CFWW at Guelph. Bonnie spoke on the importance of beginning from the margins and the role of intersectionality in work and family research.

International Francophone Feminist Research Conference

Sonia Alimi, Research Coordinator at DAWN Canada, participated on a panel at the Congrès international des recherches féministes dans la francophonie ([CIRFF](#)) which was held from



Sonia Alimi at the Congrès international des recherches féministes dans la francophonie (CIRFF)



August 27th to 31st 2018 in Paris. Her presentation, entitled “Renouvellement des modes de production de nouveaux savoirs féministes” presented DAWN Canada as an example of an organization which integrates intersectionality in its culture and practices.

Consultation on feminist law reform capacities and priorities in Canada

On September 15th, Karine Myrgianie Jean-François travelled to Ottawa to attend a consultation on feminist law reform capacities and priorities in Canada hosted by the National Association of Women and the Law. She attended another round of meetings in the summer.

National Symposium on the voices of women in housing

Karine Myrgianie Jean-François participated in a 2 day symposium on women and housing. The event was held in October 2018 in Vancouver and was attended by 40 women from every province and territory, representing First Nations, Métis and Inuit women’s organizations, women with lived expertise, immigrant and refugee women’s organizations, the Black and women of colour communities, trans women, women with disability community, and shelters, transition houses, women’s centres and advocacy organizations.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Throughout October 2018, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, DAWN Canada shared information to raise awareness of the barriers which limit access to health care, along with resources to address them. Our resources focus on the particular challenges and successes that women with disabilities and Deaf women face in getting equitable breast cancer treatment. Resources include an infographic, learning brief, and PSA.



2018 Disability Intersectionality Summit

Nelly Bassily, Project Officer, and Karine Myrgianie Jean-François, Senior Project Manager at DAWN Canada attended the second biennial Disability Intersectionality Summit on October 13th, 2018 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This summit brought together marginalized people with disabilities (LGBTQIA, incarcerated people with disabilities, etc.) to talk about the multiple oppressions they experience. It is organized by and for people with disabilities.



Mia Mingus, Nelly Bassily, and Karine Myrgianie Jean-François at the 2018 Disability Intersectionality Summit

New resource:

Women with disabilities and D/deaf women, Housing and Violence

In January 2019, DAWN Canada collaborated with Western University's Learning Network to develop an issue-based [newsletter](#) on housing and violence faced by women with disabilities and Deaf women. Co-written by Doris Rajan, Fran Odette and Bonnie Brayton, along with Linda Baker and Dianne Lalonde at the Learning Network, this excellent resource identifies barriers women with disabilities and Deaf women face when fleeing violence and seeking housing, offers a model for accessible and inclusive shelters, and celebrates the resilience of women with disabilities and D/deaf women.

BCANDS Indigenous Disability and Wellbeing Gathering

In March 2019, Bonnie Brayton presented at the BCANDS Gathering on the work of DAWN Canada, research, policy, and intersectionality.

Policy and Advocacy

DAWN Canada continues to challenge and engage policy-makers in the review and development of policies so that they are intersectional, inclusive, and informed by community-defined needs. We are committed to ensuring that the voices of women with disabilities and Deaf women are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter to us most.

Quebec Federal Council Innovation Lab Dialogue on Labour Market Representation

Karine Myrgianie Jean-François represented DAWN Canada at the Quebec Federal Council Innovation Lab's dialogue on the representation of people with disabilities in the labor market. This event was part of a pilot project designed to attract, recruit



Illustration for the 12 days campaign on violence against women

and retain employees with disabilities in the federal public service. Participants examined the challenges related to attracting, recruiting and retaining persons with disabilities, but also reflected on new approaches and innovative solutions to fostering representation.

12 Days Campaign on Violence Against Women

Every year for the last six years, Hanane Khales,



Communications Coordinator has represented DAWN Canada on the committee which leads the annual 12 Days of Action on Violence Against Women. Based in Montreal, the 12 Day Committee is composed of 17 Quebec organizations that gather together to raise awareness of violence against women. In 2018 the Committee as they organized a series of videos on different topics related to violence. As part of that, Karine Myrgianie Jean-François was featured in a [video](#) on violence experienced by women with disabilities and Deaf women.

National Housing Strategy Consultation: Advancing the conversation on women’s special housing needs

In January 2019, Karine Myrgianie Jean-François represented DAWN Canada during Government of Canada consultations with women’s organizations on the National Housing Strategy. Led by CMHC the consultations aimed to broaden the definition of women’s housing needs in the context of the National Housing Co-investment Fund (NHCF). Karine’s input focused on understanding the needs of women throughout the different stages of their lives and as they navigate the housing continuum.



Karine Myrgianie Jean-François participating in a workshop on housing

Women’s Advisory Committee on Labour Force Development

On March 28th, DAWN Canada, in collaboration with the CCRW presented on a panel as part of the Women’s Disability and Labor Market Day of the Women’s Advisory Committee (CWC) on Labor Force Development. Representing



DAWN Canada, Karine Myrgianie Jean-François presented on the “Youth The Future” approach. The information presented and discussed confirmed the lack of data and analysis related to women with disabilities and access to work as well as the importance and urgency for gender-based and intersectional analysis.

Sexual Assault Project with Éducaloi

DAWN Canada is working with Éducaloi in one of their project to address sexual violence. Educaloi is a leader in the movement to improve access to justice in Quebec. This project aims to address the needs of survivors of sexual assault particularly vulnerable persons, in the criminal justice system. A guide was developed for use by criminal justice and sexual assault professionals.

Government of Canada’s Advisory Council on Gender-Based Violence

The Minister’s [Advisory Council on the Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence](#) was established on June 27, 2016. The Advisory Council is a forum to exchange views, promising practices and research on issues related to gender-based violence.

The members of the Advisory Council have been selected to reflect expertise in prevention, supporting survivors and justice and other system responses. Bonnie Brayton was appointed to the advisory council in 2016 and continues to represent DAWN Canada.

Gender Equality Network of Canada (GENC) meeting in Vancouver

The Gender Equality Network of Canada (GENC) is a national network of more than 130 women leaders from across Canada, initiated by the Canadian Women’s Foundation and funded by Status of Women Canada. Launched in September 2017, it brings together women leaders to advocate for policy



changes, build inclusive intersectional leadership, and take collective action to advance gender equality in Canada. Bonnie Brayton and Doris Rajan from IRIS Institutes moderated a panel discussion on “Inclusive, Integrated and Intersectional Practice: Build it and they will come!” Several other women leaders with disabilities were also in attendance, including Joyce Fossella, Susana Deranger, Fran Odette, Nihal Elwan, and Barb Goode.



Nelly Bassily, Quinn Saretsky, Fran Odette and Doris Rajan at a panel at the Gender Equality Network of Canada (GENC) hosted by the Canadian Women's Foundation

Policy Briefs to Government of Canada

DAWN Canada regularly provides briefs to the government of Canada on issues related to women and girls with disabilities. On June 15, 2018, we presented a brief to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights for their study on Human Trafficking in Canada called, “Canadian Women and Girls with Disabilities and Human Trafficking,” prepared by Sonia Alimi and Mikayla Celine Aguié.

In addition, we submitted a brief to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women in Canada (FEWO) on November 14, 2018 on Women with Disabilities and Access to Shelters and Transition Houses. It was prepared by Sonia Alimi.

We also submitted a brief to FEWO on March 29, 2019 on the challenges faced by senior women with a focus on the factors contributing to their poverty & vulnerability. This was based on research by Sonia Alimi & Jihan Abbas.

Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) forum

Hosted by Status of Women Canada, the goal of this forum is to facilitate a national dialogue on the importance of integrating GBA+ in the development of public policies, programs and initiatives. It also provides an opportunity for leaders in GBA+ to discuss strategies to strengthen analytical capacity across Canada, and also share results and best practices. As a panelist at this forum, Bonnie Brayton challenged the idea that women with disabilities are “a Plus”, reminding delegates that they are in fact represented within all other groups of women, and must be treated as central in the development of policies.

Empowering Women and Girls with Disabilities: UNCSW63 March 2019

DAWN Canada was part of the official Canadian delegation to the 63rd edition of the United Nations Convention on the Status of Women, UNCSW63. We also co-



Bonnie Brayton at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, UNCSW63

hosted a side event with the Government of Canada on “Empowering women and girls with disabilities: How can intersectional research and policy development impact women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities in Canada and the World”. This panel discussion was moderated by Paulette Senior, CEO and president of the Canadian Women’s Foundation and

the Deputy Minister Gina Wilson of Canada. The panelists were Maya Roy (YWCA Canada), Debbie Douglas (OCASI), Bonnie Brayton (DAWN



Canada) and participants from the Australian delegation.

DAWN Participates in Bilateral Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

A bilateral meeting in April with United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, (UNSRV) Ms. Dubravka Šimonović and her team provided DAWN Canada with an important opportunity to raise our concerns regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities. In our meeting and subsequent report to the UNSRV, DAWN Canada pointed out that Canada has failed to act on the issue of violence against women and girls with disabilities.

However, the absence of women with disabilities in women-serving organizations, the social/economic exclusion of women with disabilities in Canada, and other factors have contributed to this reality being overlooked. In addition, emerging evidence indicates that women in Canada and around the world become disabled through violence in much higher numbers than appears in current statistics, which has significant implications for both policy and direct services.



Nelly Bassily and a contemporary dance troupe of women and girls with disabilities

Women & girls with disabilities try contemporary dance

In partnership with [Circuit Est Centre chorégraphique](#), DAWN Canada organized a weekly workshop for women and girls with disabilities to try contemporary dance in a friendly and safe environment. You can see more photos [here!](#)



More Than A Footnote: A Research Report on Women and Girls with Disabilities in Canada

Women and girls with disabilities in Canada face unique challenges and barriers that call for gendered and intersectional approaches that inform research, education, policy, and practice.



More Than a Footnote report

This year, we released our ground-breaking research report [“More Than A Footnote: A Research Report on Women and Girls with Disabilities in Canada”](#) which provides a snapshot of the complex situations facing women and girls with disabilities in Canada.

The report covers all aspects of the lives of women and girls with disabilities, including education, employment, violence, sexual and reproductive rights, among others. The methodology included a statistical analysis, literature review, environmental scan as well as original research. It was conducted with three project partners, [People First of Canada](#), [Realize](#), and the [Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab](#). The research was led by Dr. Jihan Abbas.

Prior to this, the available information, whether research-based or anecdotal, had never been gathered or analyzed in a comprehensive way



that could be used as an evidence-based platform from which coordinated policy and programmatic responses could be developed. Indeed, while feminist academics and researchers have built a significant body of work on Canadian girls and women, most of that research has been and continues to be done without an intersectional lens, particularly the disability lens. As a result, there is an absence of analysis of the implications for women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women and girls.

The report points out that while education plays a key role in the lives of women and girls with disabilities, unequal access at all levels continues to disproportionately affect women and girls. In Canada, women with disabilities aged 25-54 are more likely (18.3%) to report having no degree, diploma, or certificate than women without disabilities



*Karine Myrgianie Jean-François, Yin Brown
at the Ontario Roundtable hosted by DAWN Canada*

(8.3%). In addition, the report notes there are still significant barriers related to accommodation at all levels of education and across all provinces in Canada. These include barriers that prevent students from attending classes of their choice and writing exams in inclusive environments, both of which have an impact in terms of a students' ability to achieve their full potential.

Concerning employment, the “More Than a Footnote” report found that women with disabilities report a number of barriers, including unemployment, underemployment, lower wages, issues accessing accommodation, and concerns around continued workplace discrimination. Indeed, women with disabilities are less likely to participate in the labour force with only 61.3% between the ages of 25-54 participating and a 13.4% unemployment rate.

Women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by



various forms of violence and abuse. Statistics reveal that they are twice as likely as those who do not have a disability to be the victim of violent crimes, as well as twice as likely to have been victimized more than once in the last 12 months, and in 45% of incidents of self-reported crime (including sexual assault, robbery, and physical assault) the victims were women with disabilities.

Regarding sexual and reproductive rights, persistent and outdated myths about women and girls with disabilities mean many individuals remain underserved. Women with disabilities shared that they have limited options in terms of contraceptives, as practitioners often appear surprised that they are sexually active and fail to ask about contraception and STIs.

There are many other aspects of women and girls with disabilities' lives covered in our report. Overall, it brings together several strands of existing research, with some original contributions, to piece together a more comprehensive understanding of what it is like to be a woman or a girl with a disability in Canada.

We seek to use this work to inform research, education, policy, and practice in ways that are emancipatory to women and girls with disabilities. Our goal through this report is to engage readers in ways that spur discussions and partnerships that collectively move us beyond the barriers that women and girls with disabilities face and towards solutions-based action informed by lived experience.

Funding to produce the report was provided by the Office for Disability Issues, Employment and Social Development Canada.



Summary of Funded Projects

Legislation, Policy and Service Responses to Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Deaf women (LPS)

We have successfully completed our project “Legislation, Policy and Service Responses to Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Deaf women.” This project could not have been successful without the work of our Provincial Project Coordinators, Jewelles Smith (BC), Yin Brown (Ontario) and Selma Koudiri (Quebec), and of course, the



Yin Brown presenting the outcomes from the Legislation, Policy and Service Responses to Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women (LPS) project

many organizations and individuals who gave their time as participants in our regional working groups. To find out more about the outcomes of this initiative, [watch](#) Bonnie Brayton, National Executive Director of DAWN Canada, in this short video summary of the project. Project outputs will also be available on our [website](#) in the near future.

Do The Rights Thing: An intersectional approach to human rights

This year we continued this project. Funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada, *Do the Rights Thing: An intersectional human rights approach* aims to develop responses to the systemic barriers to services and employment



experienced by women with disabilities and Deaf women. This project will also demonstrate the social and economic benefits of equitable hiring and inclusive service provision.

The project has three local implementing partners, the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS), ARCH Disability Law Centre and the Table des groupes de femmes de Montréal. In the last year, we have finalized a needs assessment as well as a focus groups/key informant interviews methodology for our local partners. We have since then engaged employers, human rights organizations, women with disabilities and Deaf women, and other stakeholders to see what they currently do and what they struggle with in order to eventually create practical tools, educational materials, and public awareness campaigns on the human rights obligations of employers and service providers.

Girls Without Barriers

Currently in its second year, Girls Without Barriers is aimed at increasing programming



Nelly Bassily with Girls Rock Camp

for 9 to 13-year-old girls with disabilities and Deaf girls, and also increasing their participation in existing girl-serving programs. As part of this project, DAWN Canada organized workshops in partnership with [Rock Camp Montreal](#) in order to raise awareness of the specific needs of girls with disabilities, especially among their peers at the camp.

Youth the Future

Youth the Future (YTF) is a client-centered program serving young people with disabilities, ages 15 – 30. This program seeks to enhance the self-awareness, independence and employment-related skills of its participants, so that they can secure meaningful employment or return to school. DAWN is partnering with YTF to support specifically young women and girls with disabilities.

Over a three-year period, and in four locations, 288 youth with disabilities will develop the life and job skills necessary to transition into the labour market or return to school. Each group of participants completes 8 weeks of paid classroom-like training for 30 hours a week, followed by 16 weeks of real-world work experience.

The program, led by the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW), works closely with a partner organization in each of the four cities served. DAWN Canada is leading the project in Montreal and the 6th cohort has just finished.

Youth the Future is funded by Employment and Social Development Canada.

Agir pour que cesse la violence conjugale envers les femmes en situation de handicap et les femmes Sourdes

“Agir pour que cesse la violence conjugale envers les femmes en situation de handicap et les femmes Sourdes” is a project that aims to develop partnerships with service providers and to involve men as well as women so that they are thinking of means of prevention and fighting against all forms of violence, in particular domestic violence.

The project will be carried out over two (2) years, and will take the form of, among other things, a prevention and information campaign on domestic violence, its forms and its repercussions. It will primarily target women with disabilities and Deaf women, their community and the general population.

This project is funded by the Quebec Secrétariat à la condition féminine.



