

Announcement: Eternal Flame, Parliament Hill, Tuesday May 30, 2017, 12:00pm.

**Canadian Access and Inclusion Project
Innovation Think Tank**



**Changing Attitudes to increase meaningful
inclusion of people with
disabilities in Canada**

The Canadian Access and Inclusion Project Innovation Think Tank: Changing Attitudes To Increase Meaningful Inclusion of persons with Disabilities In Canadian Society

Through the Canadian Access and Inclusion Project (CAIP), Canadians with disabilities made it known that a lack of awareness, knowledge, and cultural issues are significant barriers to their inclusion in Canadian society. While accessibility legislation is one tool to help affect change, we must also explore bold and innovative ways of changing attitudes to improve access and inclusion in Canada.

The CAIP Innovation Think Tank: Changing Attitudes To Increase Meaningful Inclusion of persons with Disabilities In Canadian Society will be a one and a half day gathering of the 32 well-known not-for-profit organizations, people with disabilities and other experts. Together they will work to describe bold and creative ideas/actions (beyond policy, legislation and regulations) that will cause a shift in Canada's culture whereby more people passionately value and actively include persons with a broad range of disabilities in communities across the country.

The CAIP Innovation Think Tank will take place in November 2017 in Ottawa. CAIP is supported by the Government of Canada.

Representing CAIP at the Innovation Think Tank Announcement:

- Bill Adair, Executive Director, Spinal Cord Injury Canada & CAIP Host
- Dr. Mary Ann McColl, Canadian Disability Policy Alliance, CAIP Legislation Lead
- Joanne Smith & Rilind Dragoshi, Consumer Leads
- Jane Arkell, CAIP Project Lead, Spinal Cord Injury Canada
- Jason Dunkerley, Achilles Track Club & Paralympic Athletic Medalist

For more information:

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Canada

Canadian Access and Inclusion Project  Projet canadien sur l'accès et l'inclusion


Spinal Cord Injury Canada
Lésions Médullaires Canada

About CAIP

Lead by Spinal Cord Injury Canada, the Canadian Access and Inclusion Project (CAIP) is an alliance of 32 well-known organizations of and for people with disabilities and older adults that is assisting the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with a Disability in the historic development of federal accessibility legislation for Canada. Over the past 6 months, CAIP has listened to over 1000 Canadians with disabilities about their barriers and best ideas to removing barriers to full community participation. The input has been rich, heartfelt and at times, very emotional. Canadians are excited and hopeful to see change to access and inclusion and to be able to enjoy full community participation.

CAIP is committed to reaching out to those whose voices may not have been heard in the past. Through its partners, 68 consultations and workshops have taken place across the country (including a consultation focused on youth and 10 workshops hosted within First Nations Communities). Feedback has been collected through an online survey, one on one interviews for those who were unable to attend a face to face consultation, and Canadians with disabilities the opportunity to tell air stories and share their thoughts through a “Rant, Rave, and Recommend” online presence.

A summary report on this first phase of the project has been presented to Minister Qualtrough and can be viewed and downloaded online at include-me.ca. This report includes the input from all consultations and workshops, which, in addition to invaluable lived experiences, had rich input from a multitude of sectors within the disability community, including:

- Technology
- Sport & Recreation
- Older Adults
- Barrier Free Design
- Research
- Legislation
- Rehabilitation
- Employment
- Leisure & Music
- Justice
- Indigenous Peoples
- Rural/remote
- Far North
- Innovation

Through a structured research process, CAIP's academic research partners analyzed the consultation input and identified common sets of barriers and areas in which changes could overcome these barriers to make Canada more accessible and inclusive. These include:

- A lack of public awareness, knowledge, and training were consistently identified as barriers and areas where more funding is required to support changes necessary to making Canada fully accessible and inclusive.
- Insufficient infrastructure and services were also consistently identified as barriers and areas where more is required to support changes to make Canada accessible and inclusive.
- Legislation-related issues and considerations, including the need for national standards and equity, accountability, transparency, and representation by people with disabilities and indigenous people in legislative processes.
- A lack of housing and transitional barriers (as youth age into adulthood), which were brought to the fore in the First Nations community workshops and the youth consultation, respectively.
- Employment was brought forward as one of the top priorities put forward by participants in the youth consultation.

To learn more about CAIP:

Contact Bill Adair, Executive Director Spinal Cord Injury Canada

- Email: bill@sci-can.ca
- Phone: 1.416.200.5814
- Visit <http://include-me.ca>



More about Jason Dunkerley (Ottawa)

Achilles Track Club & Paralympic Athletic Medalist

Jason has proudly represented Canada at 5 Paralympic Games, most recently competing along with his guide Josh in the Rio Paralympics. He is a 5-time medalist in middle distance track. Jason grew up in Northern Ireland with two brothers who were also blind.

Encouragement from his parents to play outside with other children, and support from teachers in trying a variety of different sports, instilled a love for physical activity which has been a defining part of Jason's life. He competed in track throughout high school and at the University of Guelph, where he studied International Development. Jason also completed a Masters in World Literatures and Cultures from the University of Ottawa in 2014.



Jason has been a member of the national Para Athletics team since 1998. Through his work promoting inclusive physical activity with the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability, as one of the founding members of the Achilles Ottawa running club for blind athletes, and as a board member with the Ontario Blind Sports Association, Jason hopes to encourage people of all abilities to catch the physical activity bug, just as he himself did.

Mary Ann McColl, PhD, MTS (Kingston)

Professor, School of Rehabilitation Therapy & Department of Public Health Sciences at Queen's University



In addition to her roles as a Professor at Queen's University, Dr. Mary Ann McColl is Associate Director at the Centre for Health Services & Policy Research at Queen's University. She is the Academic Lead for the Canadian Disability Policy Alliance, an association of academic, community and policy partners committed to understanding and enhancing disability policy in Canada.

Dr. McColl is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications in the area of disability policy, occupational therapy, spirituality & disability, long-term health in spinal cord injury, disability in primary care. She has also written numerous books, including *Introduction to disability*, *Disability & Social Policy in Canada*, *Theoretical basis of occupational therapy*, *Interventions, effects and outcomes in Occupational Therapy*, *Spirituality and occupational therapy*, *Canadian Occupational Performance Measure*, *Research on the COPM*, and *Interprofessional Primary Health Care*.

CAIP Consumer Leads

Joanne E. Smith, B.A., BRT, CNP (Toronto)



Joanne is a graduate of the Institute of Holistic Nutrition in Toronto, holds a degree in psychology from York University, as well as a diploma in radio & television broadcasting from Seneca College.

Joanne has dedicated her career to raising awareness of the issues concerning people with disabilities. As a Certified Nutritional Practitioner, she specializes in providing optimal nutritional health for people with disabilities,

Her expertise in the disability community comes from her personal experience of living with a spinal cord injury for over twenty five years, as well as her years as host and producer of two national television programs that focus on telling in- depth stories about Canadians with disabilities, the Gemini award winning CBC show Moving On, and Accessibility in Action.

Joanne's passion for assisting others with disabilities is further demonstrated through her years as a dedicated mentor and volunteer for SCI Ontario, Lyndhurst rehabilitation center, Canadian Spinal Research Organization, Easter Seals, The Canadian Foundation For Physically Disabled Persons and numerous other disability organizations across the country.

Rilind Dragoshi (Moncton)

Rilind graduated Crandall University with an honours degree in Bachelor of Arts/Psychology. Currently Rilind is working towards a Masters and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. He is pursuing a career in counselling because he enjoys helping others and guiding them towards solving their difficulties and various life challenges. Riling has personal experience overcoming barriers to both education and employment.

Rilind has been on the CNIB National Youth council since its inception, and joined because he believes that the CNIB and Canada needs a youth voice and perspective on issues facing blind Canadians. His goals for being on the youth council is to raise awareness of the issues affecting blind Canadians including employment community participation, and accessibility issues in technology. His efforts are based on the premise that only through honesty about the situation of the blind, active participation in society, advocacy, as well as our own independent efforts can this hope to be accomplished.

