



Communication Disabilities Access Canada

Feb 6, 2019

[Communication Disabilities Access Canada \(CDAC\)](#) is a Canada-wide non-profit organization that focuses on social justice and accessibility for people who have communication disabilities. Here's an update on some of our current activities:

Accessible Canada Act.

Canada's national accessibility legislation, currently known as Bill C-81 is working its way through the government process. Following CDAC's presentation to the Standing Committee of the House of Commons in October 2018, "communication" was added as a priority area to the bill. Once the bill becomes law, we will connect with ISAAC Canada and our partner organizations as we provide input on regulations relating to accessibility for people who have communication disabilities and who may or may not use AAC. [Check out our brief and recommendations on communication access and Bill C 81.](#) Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter if you are interested in this emerging legislation.

Online Communication Courses

Over a period of 6 months in 2018, 2,100 people registered to take the CDAC online communication courses. The courses are in English and French and available at no cost until April 30, 2019.

- [Learn how to assist people who have disabilities that affect their communication when communicating at meetings and events](#)
- [Learn how to hire and work with a communication assistant](#)
- [Learn to make your services accessible for people who have disabilities that affect their communication for organizations and businesses.](#)

Communication Assistance Database

Some people, not everyone, who have disabilities that affect their communication, want someone to assist them communicating with a person who does not know them, or when participating at a meeting or an important event. Sometimes, a family member or support person can provide this assistance. However, there are times, when a person may not have someone who can assist them or they may choose not to rely on a family member or support person. For those situations, CDAC has developed a database to find people who can assist with communication.

There are two categories of communication assistance on the CDAC database.

Communication assistants provide communication support in everyday, non-critical situations such as communicating at meetings or appointments. **Communication intermediaries** are Speech-Language Pathologists, with additional training from CDAC to assist people when communicating in police, legal and justice settings. All assistants and intermediaries on the database work independently and are not accredited, endorsed or paid by CDAC. Learn more about assistants and intermediaries by going to the database at <http://www.cdacanada.com/communication-assistance-database>

[Guidelines for communication access](#)

Available in English and French, these guidelines tell businesses, private, public and non-profit organizations and government services how to comply with Canadian accessibility laws in order to make their services accessible for people who have disabilities that affect their communication. The guidelines are for managers, front-line staff and policy makers who are responsible for providing face-to-face and telephone customer services, hosting meetings and events, and communicating information in any way to and from the public. Please feel free to share with organizations in your area.

For more resources, check out the CDAC website at <http://www.cdacanada.com>

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