

Housing Issues for People with Disabilities in Canada

March 2017

Submitted to:

**The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
For its Review of Canada's initial report under the CRPD**

Submitted By:

Alzheimer Society of Canada

ARCH Disability Law Centre

Canadian Association for Community Living

Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch

Council of Canadians with Disabilities

Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society

Social Rights Advocacy Centre

Wellesley Institute

Table of Contents

- Plain Language Summary..... i**

- Introduction..... 1**
- I. Housing Disadvantage, Discrimination and Homelessness Faced by Canadians with Disabilities 1**
 - A. General Overview – Housing, Homelessness and Canadians with Disabilities 2
 - B. People with Psychosocial disabilities 3
 - C. People with Intellectual Disabilities 4
 - D. People with Dementia..... 5
 - E. Indigenous Persons 5
- II. Lack of Rights-Based Framework and National Plan to Address Housing Needs of Canadians with Disabilities 6**
 - A. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 7
 - B. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities..... 7
 - C. Denial of Access to Justice and Effective Remedies for the Right to Housing..... 8
- III. Recommendations 8**
- Appendix A – Federal/Provincial Context for Housing Policy 11**
- Appendix B – Overview of Submitting Organizations..... 12**
- Appendix C – Selected Data on Persons with Disabilities in Canada..... 14**
- Endnotes..... 17**

Plain Language Summary

This is a report about how Canadians with disabilities are not able to enjoy the right to affordable housing and supports to live independently in the community. These rights are recognized under Articles 19 and 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Housing Disadvantage, Discrimination and Homelessness

Canadians with disabilities are much more likely than those without disabilities to:

- Have 'core housing need' (lack of housing affordability, adequate condition, and space)
- Be homeless – some estimates are that 45% of homeless people have disabilities
- Have few housing choices
- Face discrimination in housing
- Have few resources or power to bargain with landlords
- Lack suitable housing and supports
- Live in sub-standard housing

Lack of a Housing Rights Framework in Canada

- Canada has failed to meet its international obligations to respect the housing rights of Canadians with disabilities. UN treaty bodies have called on Canada for over twenty years to do a better job.
- When people with disabilities went to court to claim their right to housing and supports, Canada asked the court to dismiss the case. The court agreed. This is a very serious concern for the community.

We recommend that the CRPD Committee call on Canada to:

1. Recognize and support a right to housing and supports, under CRPD Articles 19 and 28.
2. Review its litigation strategies to ensure access to justice and effective remedies for the right to housing.
3. Review government policies for impact on housing access and supports.
4. Make sure the National Housing Strategy addresses needs of people with disabilities.
5. Create an independent monitoring system to assess and report on impact of government measures on achieving CRPD Article 19 and 28 housing and support rights.
6. Include measures in its home care strategy for people with disabilities, to deliver on Article 19 obligations.
7. Take steps to enhance income security to address the poverty of Canadians with disabilities.

Introduction

This is a report on the housing and supports gap facing Canadians with disabilities. It responds to the concerns related to questions #31, #32, and #40 in the List of Issues prepared by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for its review of Canada's initial report on the CRPD.

This is a companion document to the full 'shadow report' submitted by the Canadian NGO coalition, and reports on:

- Housing disadvantage, discrimination and homelessness faced by Canadians with disabilities
- Lack of a rights-based framework in Canada to address homelessness and housing and supports gap experienced by people with disabilities;
- Recommendations we urge the Committee to consider as it prepares its Concluding Observations on Canada's initial report.

Appendix A outlines the federal-provincial context for housing and social policy in Canada.

I. Housing Disadvantage, Discrimination and Homelessness Faced by Canadians with Disabilities

Aggregate data to answer the Committee's specific questions related to housing in the List of Issues are limited. In this report, we draw on a range of sources that point to the severe disadvantage Canadians with disabilities face in seeking and sustaining adequate, affordable housing to enable their Article 19 and Article 28 rights to be exercised and enjoyed.

This section begins with a general overview focuses on housing, homelessness and Canadians with disabilities, and then focuses on housing needs of four sub-groups:

- People with psychosocial disabilities
- People with intellectual disabilities
- People with dementia
- Indigenous persons with disabilities

In sum, people with disabilities in Canada are disproportionately homeless, living in poverty, subject to drastically restricted housing choices, subject to housing discrimination and likely to live in substandard housing. This is especially the case for Indigenous persons with disabilities.

A. General Overview – Housing, Homelessness and Canadians with Disabilities

- **Disproportionately in ‘core housing need’** – Over 13% of the population in Canada has a disability – over 4 million people. Over 400,000 adults with more significant disabilities have “core housing need”, the standard Canadian federal definition of deficient housing affordability, quality, and/or adequacy. We estimate there is a larger group than this because current national surveys are not capturing people with milder disabilities.¹
- **More likely to be homeless** – On any given night in Canada, about 35, 000 people are homeless or living in shelters, and on an annual basis there are 235,000 homeless Canadians.² It has been estimated that 45% of the homeless population are people with disabilities or living with diagnosed mental health conditions.
- **Higher rate of poverty** – Many people with disabilities face difficulty maintaining steady employment, especially better-paid jobs. Among working-age adults with disabilities the rate of poverty is twice as high as for Canadians without disabilities (20% vs. 10%).
- **Constrained housing options** – Affordable housing prices, tenure options, and locations are all more restricted at lower incomes:³ Over 30% of adults with disabilities live in rental housing. Almost 45% of this group live on low incomes compared to 25% of renters without disabilities. Among lone parents, people with disabilities are much more likely than people without disabilities to have low income (34% vs.20%).
- **Discriminatory practices** – People with low or irregular income and especially recipients of social assistance, all of whom are disproportionately disabled, often face discriminatory screening-out practices by landlords, related to both disability and ability to pay.⁴ Disability is often a barrier to obtaining housing and sustaining stable residency. Many landlords discriminate on the basis of certain disabilities,⁵ including evictions for disability-related behaviours and failure to accommodate disability-related needs.
- **Compounded disadvantage: disability discrimination plus racialized status** – There is well-documented discrimination in rental housing markets on the basis of racialized status. African Canadian renters indicate negative stereotypes are often encountered, “such as that African Canadian tenants are more likely to be involved with drugs or be violent and that racialized people are dirty.”⁶ When layered with disability stereotypes racialized minorities face even more barriers.
- **Unstable housing** – People with low income and high rent/income ratios are at higher risk of rent arrears and consequent eviction. They are more likely to be subsequently screened out based on such tenancy records.⁷ If landlord disputes arise, certain disabilities may create a disadvantage in dealing with them.⁸
- **Lack of suitable supportive housing** – People with physical disabilities often require accessibility features that are not available in many properties; people with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities often require a support worker to help them meet tenancy

obligations, but too few are available. Available stock, openings (turnover), and the locations of social and supportive housing are far more limited than for private-sector rental.⁹ Only 19% of people with disabilities living in low-income households report receiving all of the support they need with everyday activities. Social housing access policies can also put people with disabilities at a disadvantage.¹⁰

- ***Living in sub-standard housing*** – The factors above result in people with disabilities more often living in poorly maintained rental housing,¹¹ or housing of other low quality or space, e.g. rented rooms, and in neighbourhoods with disadvantages. Among people with low income, 16% of those with disabilities live in housing in need of major repairs, compared with 10% of those without disabilities.
- ***Difficulty exiting from homelessness*** – The scarcity of supportive housing makes it difficult to exit from homelessness. Limited funding constrains providers in meeting their duty to accommodate, e.g. paying for support staff or physical modifications.¹²

B. People with Psychosocial disabilities

- Estimates of Canada’s population with psychosocial disabilities (serious mental illness or addiction) vary. Canada’s most recent survey on disability, which identifies people with more significant disabilities, estimates 1,060,000 people or 3.9 percent of the total population age 15 or older.¹³
- People with psychosocial disabilities are in various housing situations, including living with family (73 percent), private rental, social housing, supportive housing, boarding homes, residential care facilities (group homes), and hospitals. Among this population, 21 percent are in low income households, and 10 percent of those with mental health conditions have core housing need. The latter rate is over 15% for those with a combined developmental and psychosocial disability. It is estimated that 520,000 people living with mental illness are homeless or precariously housed.¹⁴
- Independent rent-subsidized housing with flexible support services is widely identified as best practice,¹⁵ but the availability falls far short of needs.¹⁶ It has been estimated that Canada has just over 25,000 supportive social housing units (2012) for this population.¹⁷ This is a small share of the 289,000 people with psychosocial disabilities living alone or with non-relatives.
- Many people with psychosocial disabilities live either in low-quality rented rooms, or in boarding homes that provide housing and supports on a “custodial” model that does not support well-being and autonomy.¹⁸ In many provinces this exceeds the numbers in supportive housing. Social housing is a small sector (4½ percent of households), has expanded little since the early 1990s, and faces steady phase-out of federal funding.¹⁹ There are widespread gaps in capacity and availability of mental health supports,²⁰ and in coordination with housing and between levels of government.²¹

- There are also gaps for older persons with psychosocial disabilities, culturally sensitive services for a multicultural population, drug/alcohol users, people with high or complex needs, and Indigenous peoples.²² Mental health and addiction issues, and the lack of housing with supports, are major contributing factors in homelessness.²³
- Comprehensive nationwide data are lacking on the availability of housing with supports and the numbers in supportive housing, boarding homes, and other categories.
- In 2006 the Senate called for development of 56,000 units with supports over 10 years. In 2012 the Mental Health Commission recommended funding for 100,000 units with supports. It can be estimated that less than 3,000 have been developed since 2006.
- There are some positive recent developments. In several provinces, housing allowance programs have been expanded,²⁴ and housing²⁵ and poverty reduction strategies²⁶ are being adopted. A federal National Housing Strategy and poverty reduction strategy are in development. There is widespread recognition of ‘Housing First’ approaches to homeless people with psychosocial disabilities as a best practice.

C. People with Intellectual Disabilities

- The Canadian Association for Community Living estimates that between 100,000 and 120,000 adults with intellectual disabilities face a housing and supports gap.²⁷ Almost 25,000 Canadians with more significant intellectual disabilities have core housing need.
- Adults with intellectual disabilities are over-represented among the estimated 35,000 homeless population in Canada on any given night. Available evidence points to a much greater likelihood of being homeless than in the general population,²⁸ with intellectual disability a pre-disposing factor to homelessness and vulnerability for this group;²⁹
- 13,200 adults with intellectual disabilities aged 30 and older live with their parents because they do not have the resources or community support to live in their own homes. Their families have unsustainable caring responsibilities, are draining life savings and have ‘Nowhere to Turn’ – as a recent Ombudsman’s report names the problem for the estimated 10,000 adults with intellectual disabilities waiting for residential services in Ontario. For too many people with intellectual disabilities, lack of access to housing and supports results in “institutionalization by default”.³⁰
- Almost 30,000 adults with intellectual disabilities reside in congregate residential facilities and group homes, on the basis of their diagnostic label. Many want a home of their own but cannot, because of scarcity of affordable housing and of staff support outside the residential facility. There appears to be a re-emergence of these congregate options.³¹
- An estimated 10,000 adults with intellectual disabilities under the age of 65 are living in hospitals, nursing homes or long-term care facilities because they cannot get the personal supports and affordable housing they need.

- An estimated additional 60,000 Canadians with mild intellectual disabilities have never been identified in surveys of Canadians with disabilities.³² Studies of people with intellectual disabilities on a global level point to an estimated 1% to 3% of population having mild to severe intellectual disability, which equates to 0.3–1.0 million in Canada.

D. People with Dementia

- It is estimated that 564,000 Canadians are currently living with dementia, and that this will increase to 937,000 in 15 years, with 25,000 new cases diagnosed each year in Canada.³³
- The current population of those with dementia are part of a larger group of 628,000 adults with ‘memory’- related disabilities as identified in the Canadian Survey on Disability (2012). Almost 80,000 among this group have core housing need. A large proportion of the latter (over 60,000) also have pain-related disabilities.³⁴ People with dementia frequently have co-occurring conditions including visual, mobility, sensory, and psychosocial disabilities.
- A severe lack of integrated home and health care/nursing services means that people with dementia are less likely to realize their Article 19 rights to live independently in the community. The result is that a growing number are placed in Canada’s already over-crowded long-term care system, with long wait lists.
- Community-based assisted living options, with many at a cost of up to \$5,000/month are out of financial range for most people with dementia who need such supports. The only option is long-term care if they are unable to be supported by informal caregivers at home. A Senate report on dementia noted that “This situation is detrimental to the individual, whose health will deteriorate more quickly in the long-term care environment, it is a costlier alternative than providing supports needed to keep the person in their home”.³⁵
- Lack of community-based support to family and informal caregivers means that they – mostly women – “sacrifice their own time, finances and health in order to care for a loved one with dementia... Caregiver burnout often results in premature hospitalization of dementia patients... society should offer a range of supports for caregivers in order to lengthen the time that dementia patients can stay in their homes while also reducing the burden on the caregivers.”³⁶

E. Indigenous Persons

- Indigenous persons in Canada are made up of many culturally diverse nations within the broad categories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Indigenous peoples experience the poorest health, and the highest rates of alcohol abuse, violence and

incarceration in Canada, which relates back to the lasting impact of colonization and the residential school systems.³⁷

- Indigenous housing needs are associated with this historical trauma, low income, isolated far-northern locations and First Nations reserves,³⁸ deep disadvantage in urban housing markets (62% lived in places not on reserves by 2011),³⁹ “constant and ongoing discrimination” in that context,⁴⁰ and under-funding of culturally appropriate services.
- Indigenous peoples in Canada experience a high rate of disability, 32 per cent, which is twice the national average⁴¹ and among this group almost 40% live in poverty.
- Urban Indigenous persons experience a hugely disproportionate rate of homelessness⁴² (1 in 15 vs. 1 in 128 for the general population), and comprise an estimated 20 to 50 percent of all homeless people, much higher in some cities.
- There is a pronounced lack of quality and accessibility in on-reserve housing;⁴³ combined with a disproportionate rate of poverty and a higher rate of large families, this results in a housing crisis for Indigenous persons living on reserve.
- The intersection of Indigeneity and disability, with scarcity of community supports for Indigenous persons living off-reserve, creates severe unmet housing and support needs. For example, respondents in a study on challenges experienced by Indigenous people with disabilities living in Regina found that there was a great need for “more accessible and affordable housing to people with disabilities.”⁴⁴

II. Lack of Rights-Based Framework and National Plan to Address Housing Needs of Canadians with Disabilities

- This context of housing disadvantage is in stark contrast to the right to housing as recognized in both the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) ratified by Canada in 1976, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Canada is failing to meet its obligations under these – in particular, to recognize the right to housing and establish coordinated implementation plans, mechanisms and monitoring systems for progressive realization. Canada has worked in the courts to resist claims to the right to life, security of the person and equality by people with disabilities in the context of homelessness or inadequate housing.⁴⁵ This section summarizes this in relation to the ICESCR, CRPD, and access to justice and effective remedies with respect to the right to housing for persons with disabilities.

A. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Canada's record with respect to economic, social and cultural rights of vulnerable groups has been a longstanding concern of UN treaty bodies – particularly with respect to people with disabilities and the right to adequate housing.
- People with disabilities in Canada are particularly reliant on the unique, self-standing protection of the right to housing and other economic social and cultural rights in the CRPD and hope that this Committee will clarify Canada's obligations.
- It is well within the capacity of Canadian governments to meet positive obligations with respect to the right to non-discrimination, the duty to accommodate people with disabilities and the right to housing as guaranteed under articles 19 and 28 of the CRPD.
- The CESCR has clarified the obligation of States parties with respect to persons with disabilities, i.e. that states parties must "take positive action to reduce structural disadvantages and to give appropriate preferential treatment to people with disabilities in order to achieve the objectives of full participation and equality within society for all persons with disabilities."⁴⁶ In 2016, the CESCR followed-up on concerns expressed 10 years earlier by the Human Rights Committee that it was "concerned that persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities continue to be placed in care institutions due to a lack of adequate housing for them."⁴⁷
- For over 20 years, UN Treaty Bodies have expressed concerns about Canada's failure to meet its obligations to address housing needs of persons with disabilities. Their long-standing call for a National Housing Strategy in Canada based on the right to housing has been ignored.⁴⁸ In its most recent (2016) review, the CESCR expressed concern about increasing numbers of people who are homeless and the absence of a national housing strategy.⁴⁹ The UN Human Rights Committee has also noted that "homelessness has led to serious health problems and even to death" and recommended that Canada "take positive measures required by article 6 [right to life] to address this serious problem."⁵⁰

B. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- The Government of Canada has not yet enacted legislation or adopted policy specifically aimed at implementing the CRPD into Canadian domestic law or creating a National Action Plan.
- The Government of Canada has not designated an independent monitoring mechanism in accordance with Article 33. Canada has only a patchwork of laws, policies and programs that target specific rights.
- Despite legal protections, almost 50% of discrimination complaints filed in Canada involve persons with disabilities.⁵¹

- With the exception of equality and human rights laws, the programs, policies and laws that address other Convention rights in Canada are not rights-based.
- Existing legislative commitments for accessibility-related requirements do not recognize rights for persons with disabilities.
- Various Convention rights are not guaranteed or addressed by law or policy at all.
- There is a clear need for a national action plan to implement the UN CRPD in Canada, consistent with Article 33.

C. Denial of Access to Justice and Effective Remedies for the Right to Housing

- After more than two decades of Canada ignoring recommendations for a national strategy to address the crisis of homelessness and inadequate housing, people with disabilities, homeless people and advocates initiated a legal challenge under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.⁵²
- The Governments of Canada and Ontario brought a motion to dismiss the application, i.e. that the Court decision to refuse to review the evidence. The Ontario Court of Appeal rendered such a decision without reviewing the evidence.⁵³
- This denial of access to justice for people with disabilities who are homeless or denied support services and access to adequate housing, resulting in serious violations of their rights to life, security of the person and equality, is contrary to obligations to ensure access to effective remedies under the CRPD. The CESCR has expressed its concern in all reviews of Canada since 1993 about “the practice of governments of urging upon their courts an interpretation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms denying protection of Covenant rights.”⁵⁴
- At its most recent review of Canada in 2016 the CESCR expressed concern about “the limited availability of legal remedies for victims in the event of Covenant rights’ violation, which may disproportionately impact disadvantaged and marginalized groups and individuals, including homeless persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.”⁵⁵

III. Recommendations

We urge the Committee to recommend that Canada take the following steps to address the gaps in legislation, policy and programs that result in systemic housing discrimination and disadvantage for people with disabilities in Canada.

- 1. *Canada and each provincial and territorial government should formally recognize a right of people with disabilities to live independently in the community, and a right to affordable, adequate and appropriate housing, including any individualized supports necessary for this purpose.***

Because Canada's courts have so far not recognized the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as conferring a right to housing, and because Canada's commitments under international law are not directly domesticated, Canada should articulate its recognition of this right under its obligations under Articles 19 and 28 of the UN CRPD and Article 11 of the ICESCR.

2. ***Canada should review its approach to litigation with respect to housing needs and rights to ensure that the government is advancing interpretations of Charter rights consistent with the rights of people with disabilities under the CRPD and the ICESCR.***
3. ***Canada, in collaboration with provincial/territorial governments, should conduct an impact assessment of policy and programs affecting housing for persons with disabilities.***

The assessment should address: limited and declining social housing funding; insufficient support services; reliance on institutional rather than community-based approaches and on congregate rather than independent housing; housing needs of Indigenous persons; impact of policy decisions on the right to independent living and to be included in the community; social protection and employment of persons with disabilities.

Canada should ensure that such assessment is rights-based and meaningfully involves persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

4. ***As part of its National Housing Strategy, and in collaboration with provincial /territorial governments, Canada should establish a policy and funding framework to remedy the shortfall in adequate and affordable housing with individualized supports to enable people with disabilities to live independently in local communities.***

This framework should include measurable, rights-based goals, timetables, investment strategies, dedicated financial resources, benchmarks for measuring progress, meaningful consultation and collaboration with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, complaints procedures, and transparent accountability mechanisms.

5. ***In collaboration with provincial/territorial governments and with the representative organizations of persons with disabilities, Canada should establish a system (including rights-based indicators) to independently monitor impact of federal and provincial /territorial policies and programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities under the CRPD.***

The framework should ensure focus on access and enjoyment by persons with disabilities of the right to social protection and an adequate standard of living, the right to work, and the right to live independently and be included in the community.

- 6. *Canada should incorporate measures, in collaboration with provinces and territories, to ensure that the financing announced by Canada for home care is delivered in a manner consistent with Article 19.***

Measures should require and promote individualization, community-based supports, self-direction, and supports for inclusion.

- 7. *Canada should work with provinces and territories to implement enhanced income security programs to address poverty of persons with disabilities.***

The program should be guided by proposals put forward by DPOs and recognized in Parliamentary reports. A federal program would create fiscal room for provinces and territories to increase investment in disability supports, which largely fall under their jurisdiction.

Appendix A – Federal/Provincial Context for Housing Policy

Canada is a federal state, with responsibilities in different policy/program spheres shared and divided between a federal (national) government, and the provinces and territories. The division and sharing of responsibilities reflects the Constitution Act, evolving constitutional practice, and various laws and federal-provincial-territorial agreements and cost-sharing.

Canada is a decentralized federation. Each of the three policy/program spheres of health care, social and community services, and social housing, are primarily provincial (and territorial) in terms of policy frameworks and a majority of funding. But there is a large federal role in these in broad leadership, policy frameworks, and cost-sharing. This includes the Canada Health Act, National Housing Act, Canada Health Transfer, Canada Social Transfer, and federal-provincial agreements governing housing programs. It includes federal departments or agencies responsible for health, social development, and housing, and programs and agreements specific to particular areas, e.g. homelessness.

The platform of the federal government elected in 2015 includes developing a national housing strategy. Consultations took place in 2016 and related announcements are expected in 2017.

Implementing Canada's obligations under international conventions therefore requires coordination and agreements between the federal government and the provincial/territorial governments. This approach is feasible and will build on Canada's existing system of intergovernmental arrangements.

Appendix B – Overview of Submitting Organizations

Alzheimer Society of Canada

The Alzheimer Society is the leading nationwide health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Active in communities across Canada, the Society offers help for today through our programs and services, and hope for tomorrow by funding research into the cause, prevention and a cure.

ARCH Disability Law Centre

ARCH Disability Law Centre is a specialty legal clinic dedicated to defending and advancing the equality rights of persons with disabilities in Ontario. For over 35 years, ARCH has provided legal services to help Ontarians with disabilities live with dignity and participate fully in our communities. ARCH provides summary legal advice and referrals to Ontarians with disabilities; represents persons with disabilities and disability organizations in test case litigation; conducts law reform and policy work; provides public legal education to disability communities and continuing legal education to the legal community; and supports community development initiatives. More information is available at www.archdisabilitylaw.ca.

Canadian Association for Community Living

The Canadian Association for Community Living is a family-based association assisting people with intellectual disabilities and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities. We do this in Canada and around the world by sharing information, fostering leadership for inclusion, engaging community leaders and policy makers, seeding innovation and supporting research. We are dedicated to attaining full participation in community life, ending exclusion and discrimination on the basis of intellectual disability, promoting respect for diversity and advancing human rights to ensure equality for all Canadians.

Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch

- To develop and provide community based support services that help people who are living with mental illness or mental health problems improve the quality of their lives in accordance with their defined needs.
- To provide information and education to increase knowledge and understanding of mental health and mental illness and services that promote mental health.
- To advocate for public policies that lead to improved quality of life for people living with mental illness or mental health problems, their families and our community.

Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD)

CCD is a national human rights organization of people with disabilities working for an inclusive and accessible Canada.

CCD's Priorities Include:

- Disability-related supports

- Poverty alleviation
- Increased employment for persons with disabilities
- Promotion of human rights
- Ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Technology developed according to the principles of universal design
- Air, rail, bus and marine transport that is accessible to persons with all types of disabilities

CCD seeks to achieve these priorities through law reform, litigation, public education and dialogue with key decision-makers.

Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society

The Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS) provides policy research and social development leadership that encourages new ways of thinking, inspiration, and education to advance the citizenship, inclusion, human rights and well-being of people with intellectual and other disabilities. It builds on the legacy of L'Institut Roehar Institute. IRIS is an independent Institute working on behalf of the community living movement in collaboration with the broader disability and social justice communities.

Social Rights Advocacy Centre

A not for profit NGO relieving poverty and improving access to adequate food, clothing, housing, education, healthcare and other requirements of dignity, equality and security through human rights research, public education and legal advocacy in Canada and around the world. SRAC is on the Steering Committee of [ESCR-Net's Strategic Litigation Initiative](#), the [ESCR Case Law Database](#) and the [NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR](#). SRAC co-directs a major research project on [Social Rights in Canada](#). SRAC co-ordinates the [Charter Committee on Poverty Issues](#), intervening in more than a dozen cases at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Wellesley Institute

Wellesley Institute works in research and policy to improve health and health equity in the Greater Toronto Area through action on the social determinants of health. Its mission is to advance population health and reduce health inequities by driving change on the social determinants of health through applied research, effective policy solutions, knowledge mobilization, and innovation.

Appendix C – Selected Data on Persons with Disabilities in Canada

Table 1: Profile of Persons with Disabilities in Canada							
		Develop- mental	Learning	Memory	Psycho- social	Physical	All persons with disabilities
Total		160,500	622,300	628,200	1,059,600	3,566,500	3,775,900
Age	15-24	53,300	90,300	40,800	96,100	131,900	195,700
	25-44	36,500	139,000	107,200	253,100	512,100	598,700
	45-64	70,700	260,900	262,100	503,700	1,503,300	1,543,800
	65+		132,000	218,000	206,700	1,419,300	1,437,700
Sex	Male	96,100	303,400	273,300	464,500	1,578,200	1,699,000
	Female	64,400	318,800	354,800	595,100	1,988,300	2,076,900
Aboriginal identity		9,000	37,200	40,500	52,300	137,600	146,900
Living arrange- ments	With family members	123,600	472,400	483,400	770,200	2,682,100	2,844,300
	Living alone	17,400	125,700	121,700	254,100	785,500	821,700
	With unrelated others	19,500	24,200	23,100	35,300	98,900	109,800
Labour force status	Employed	27,000	127,800	115,300	287,300	1,020,000	1,103,000
	Unemployed	7,200	34,700	27,200	69,800	137,700	149,000
	Not in labour force	126,400	459,800	485,600	702,500	2,408,800	2,523,900
Highest level of educa- tion*	Less than high school	83,500	230,700	195,000	294,600	1,009,300	1,087,400
	High school diploma	38,700	168,700	143,700	275,200	865,500	920,500
	Some post-secondary	20,700	189,200	248,100	427,800	1,507,300	1,575,600
Personal income in 2010 (annual)	No income or negative	23,000	41,600	26,900	47,100	114,600	136,300
	\$1-\$9,999	37,100	142,100	113,200	217,500	502,100	551,800
	\$10,000-19,999	60,400	211,500	219,000	345,900	1,025,400	1,092,000
	\$20,000-\$29,999	11,100	90,500	109,200	156,700	636,900	658,900
	\$30,000 and over	28,900	136,600	159,900	292,400	1,287,500	1,337,000
Income sources **	Wages/salaries	35,000	140,700	117,900	300,200	1,025,600	1,123,100
	Self-employment	12,800	49,100	45,700	101,500	351,000	366,100
	Worker's compensation	..	40,900	41,100	65,100	223,700	227,600
	CPP/QPP Disability	34,500	130,200	120,600	231,500	405,300	438,600
	CPP/QPP (exc. Disability)	..	148,800	230,800	37,200	1,678,700	1,699,400
	LTD benefit (private)	..	82,300	86,000	142,200	253,200	276,500
	Social Assistance	55,100	132,800	96,800	187,200	328,000	367,400
	Other	5,400	63,100	69,100	125,700	373,100	395,100
Living in a low-income household		33,000	140,800	108,000	227,800	441,700	485,600

Source: 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability. Compiled by Adele Furrie.

Disability populations are overlapping (totals do not add to right-hand column)

* Level of education excludes unknown (5 - 7%); **Income categories overlap (person may have more than 1 source).

Table 2: Profile of Persons with Disabilities in Canada (percentages)

Percent of Column Total		Develop- mental	Learning	Memory	Psycho- social	Physical	All persons with disabilities
Total		160,500	622,300	628,200	1,059,600	3,566,500	3,775,900
Age	15-24	33.2%	14.5%	6.5%	9.1%	3.7%	5.2%
	25-44	22.7%	22.3%	17.1%	23.9%	14.4%	15.9%
	45-64	44.0%	41.9%	41.7%	47.5%	42.2%	40.9%
	65+		21.2%	34.7%	19.5%	39.8%	38.1%
Sex	Male	59.9%	48.8%	43.5%	43.8%	44.3%	45.0%
	Female	40.1%	51.2%	56.5%	56.2%	55.7%	55.0%
Aboriginal identity			5.6%	6.0%	6.4%	4.9%	3.9%
Living arrange- ments	With family members	77.0%	75.9%	77.0%	72.7%	75.2%	75.3%
	Living alone	10.8%	20.2%	19.4%	24.0%	22.0%	21.8%
	With unrelated others	12.1%	3.9%	3.7%	3.3%	2.8%	2.9%
Labour force status	Employed	16.8%	20.5%	18.4%	27.1%	28.6%	29.2%
	Unemployed	4.5%	5.6%	4.3%	6.6%	3.9%	3.9%
	Not in labour force	78.8%	73.9%	77.3%	66.3%	67.5%	66.8%
Highest level of educa- tion*	Less than high school	52.0%	37.1%	31.0%	27.8%	28.3%	28.8%
	High school diploma	24.1%	27.1%	22.9%	26.0%	24.3%	24.4%
	Some post-secondary	12.9%	30.4%	39.5%	40.4%	42.3%	41.7%
Personal income in 2010 (annual)	No income or negative	14.3%	6.7%	4.3%	4.4%	3.2%	3.6%
	\$1-\$9,999	23.1%	22.8%	18.0%	20.5%	14.1%	14.6%
	\$10,000-19,999	37.6%	34.0%	34.9%	32.6%	28.8%	28.9%
	\$20,000-\$29,999	6.9%	14.5%	17.4%	14.8%	17.9%	17.5%
	\$30,000 and over	18.0%	22.0%	25.5%	27.6%	36.1%	35.4%
Income sources **	Wages/salaries	21.8%	22.6%	18.8%	28.3%	28.8%	29.7%
	Self-employment	8.0%	7.9%	7.3%	9.6%	9.8%	9.7%
	Worker's compensation	..	6.6%	6.5%	6.1%	6.3%	6.0%
	CPP/QPP Disability	21.5%	20.9%	19.2%	21.8%	11.4%	11.6%
	CPP/QPP (exc. Disability)	..	23.9%	36.7%	3.5%	47.1%	45.0%
	LTD benefit (private)	..	13.2%	13.7%	13.4%	7.1%	7.3%
	Social Assistance	34.3%	21.3%	15.4%	17.7%	9.2%	9.7%
	Other	3.4%	10.1%	11.0%	11.9%	10.5%	10.5%
Living in a low-income household			20.6%	22.6%	17.2%	21.5%	12.4%

Source: 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability. Compiled by Adele Furrie.

Disability populations are overlapping (totals do not add to right-hand column)

* Level of education excludes unknown (5 - 7%); **Income categories overlap (person may have more than 1 source).

Table 3: Frequency of Multiple Disability for Persons Age 15+ in Canada

	Develop- mental	Learning	Memory	Psycho- social	Physical
Total	160,500	622,300	628,200	1,059,600	3,566,500
Share of total who also have disabilities in:					
Seeing	46,100	210,500	229,700	294,000	756,300
Hearing	39,200	183,000	233,000	260,000	874,600
Mobility	66,900	369,400	422,400	580,300	1,971,800
Dexterity	51,800	246,800	281,200	369,300	953,100
Flexibility	77,500	404,400	446,700	652,400	2,078,000
Pain	77,500	458,800	501,700	794,200	2,664,200
Learning	102,400	--	330,900	407,100	538,500
Memory	61,100	330,900	--	377,200	581,700
Developmental	--	102,400	61,100	90,800	122,200
Psychosocial	90,800	407,100	377,200	--	909,700

Source: 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability. Compiled by Adele Furrrie.

Endnotes

¹ Statistics Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada are aware that the disability surveys conducted to date have done well in capturing adults with moderate and severe disabilities but miss many adults with mild disabilities. To improve coverage, these two departments have joined forces with academics and the disability community through a ‘Technical Advisory Group’ and have developed a strategy that will better capture ALL Canadians who experience barriers because they have limitations in their activities related to a health problem or disability-related condition.

² S. Gaetz et al. (2016), *The State of Homelessness in Canada 2016* (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness), 12.

³ W. Grigsby et al. (1987), “The Dynamics of Neighborhood Change and Decline” *Progress in Planning* 28:1-76.; G. Suttor (2015), *Rental Housing Dynamics and Lower-Income Neighbourhoods in Canada* (Research Paper 235, Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership, University of Toronto), 26-27; Ontario Human Rights Commission [OHRC] (2012), *Minds that Matter*, 45.

⁴ OHRC, *Minds that Matter*, 54; Sylvia Novac et al. (2002), *Housing Discrimination in Canada: The State of Knowledge* (Ottawa: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation).

⁵ OHRC, *Minds that Matter*, 52-53.

⁶ See for example, Ontario Human Rights Commission (2008), *Right at Home: Report on the consultation on human rights and rental housing in Ontario*. Retrieved from <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-home-report-consultation-human-rights-and-rental-housing-ontario>.

⁷ OHRC, *Minds that Matter*, 52.

⁸ OHRC, *Minds that Matter*, 56.

⁹ Suttor, *Rental Housing Dynamics*, 32-33.

¹⁰ OHRC, *Minds that Matter*, 48.

¹¹ OHRC, *Minds that Matter*, 45.

¹² OHRC, *Minds that Matter*, 57.

¹³ Total population age 15 or more was 27,259,525 in 2011 (Statistics Canada, *National Household Survey*, catalogue 99-010-X2011026).

¹⁴ Mental Health Commission of Canada (2012), *Turning the Key: Assessing Housing and Related Supports for Persons Living with Mental Health Problems and Illness*, 10.

¹⁵ *Turning the Key*, 36.

¹⁶ *Turning the Key*, 34, 43, and passim. This is congruent with estimates that Ontario and that Ontario (with 38 percent of Canada’s population) has about 16,000. On the latter, see G. Suttor (2016), *Taking Stock of Supportive Housing for Mental Health and Addictions in Ontario* (Toronto: Wellesley Institute).

¹⁷ *ibid.*, 32. This is a count of “dedicated” units with rent subsidy and support services attached to projects.

¹⁸ Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (2012), *From this Point Forward: Ending Custodial Housing for People with Mental Illness in Canada*.

¹⁹ See C. Pacini, J. Hashim, and K. Foulds (2016), *National Housing Collaborative: Social Housing Research Paper* (Toronto: National Housing Collaborative); S. Pomeroy (2015), *Built to Last: Strengthening the Foundations of Housing in Canada* (Ottawa: Federation of Canadian Municipalities).

²⁰ *Turning the Key*, 43.

²¹ *Turning the Key*, 35.

²² *Turning the Key*, 40, 49, 52, 53, 54; also appendix 6.

²³ e.g. *Turning the Key*, 39 re Toronto homeless.

²⁴ *Turning the Key*, appendix, 214.

²⁵ For example, British Columbia (2006), *Housing Matters BC: A Housing Strategy for British Columbia*; Ontario (2016), *Long-term Affordable Housing Strategy Update*.

²⁶ *Turning the Key*, 36-38 and Appendix 6.

²⁷ Canadian Association for Community Living (2016). Retrieved from <http://www.cacl.ca/area/safe-and-inclusive-communities>.

²⁸ For U.S. prevalence study, see PM Oakes and RC Davies (2008), “Intellectual disability in homeless adults: a prevalence study,” *Journal of Intellectual Disability* (December: 12(4):325-334).

-
- ²⁹ C. Mercier and S. Picard (2011), "Intellectual disability and homelessness," *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research* (April: 55(4):441-9).
- ³⁰ Ombudsman of Ontario, Paul Dube (2016). Nowhere to Turn. Final Report. Investigation into the Ministry of Community and Social Services' response to situations of crisis involving adults with developmental disabilities. Retrieved from <https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/Files/sitemedia/Documents/NTT-Final-EN-w-cover.pdf>.
- ³¹ See Housing Study Group (Developmental Services Sector – Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services Partnership Table) (2013), *Ending the Wait: An Action Agenda to Address the Housing Crisis Confronting Ontario Adults with Developmental Disabilities* (online: <http://www.dsontario.ca/news/ending-the-wait/>).
- ³² Statistics Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada are aware that the disability surveys conducted to date have done well in capturing adults with moderate and severe disabilities but miss many adults with mild disabilities. To improve coverage, these two departments have joined forces with academics and the disability community through a 'Technical Advisory Group' and have developed a strategy that will better capture ALL Canadians who experience barriers because they have limitations in their activities related to a health problem or disability-related condition.
- ³³ Alzheimer Society of Canada (2016), *Prevalence and Monetary Costs of Dementia in Canada*.
- ³⁴ These results are from the Canadian Survey on Disability, in an analysis conducted for the Canadian Association for Community Living and The Wellesley Institute, by Adele Furrrie, February 2017.
- ³⁵ Senate of Canada, Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (2016). *Dementia in Canada: A National Strategy for Dementia-friendly Communities*. Ottawa: Author, p. 23.
- ³⁶ Senate of Canada, Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (2016). *Dementia in Canada: A National Strategy for Dementia-friendly Communities*. Ottawa: Author, p. 19.
- ³⁷ O'Donnell, Vivian and Wallace. (2011) *Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Women*. Minister of Industry, Statistics Canada .
- ³⁸ Over half of Canada's Indigenous population lives in urban centres, but many live in First Nation reserves and far-northern communities.
- ³⁹ Stats Canada. Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit. www12.statcan.gc.ca. Retrieved from: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-011-x/99-011-x2011001-eng.cfm>
- ⁴⁰ Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (2016, October) Renewed Hope Recommendations for a successful National Housing Strategy in Canada. Retrieved from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56c4a231d51cd428ca552a3a/t/580e0b476a49636956cdd15b/1477315400136/Renewed+Hope+-+TAEH+recommendations+for+a+National+Housing+Strategy+-+Oct+2016.pdf>. P. 5.
- ⁴¹ South, S. M. (2006). Urban First Nations people with disabilities speak out. *International Journal of Indigenous Health*, 3(1), 34.
- ⁴² Y. Belanger, G. Head, O. Awosoga (2012), "Housing and Aboriginal People in Urban Centres: A Quantitative Evaluation" *Aboriginal Policy Studies* 2 (1): 4-25.
- ⁴³ Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (2016, October) Renewed Hope Recommendations for a successful National Housing Strategy in Canada. Retrieved from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56c4a231d51cd428ca552a3a/t/580e0b476a49636956cdd15b/1477315400136/Renewed+Hope+-+TAEH+recommendations+for+a+National+Housing+Strategy+-+Oct+2016.pdf>, p.5.
- ⁴⁴ South, S. M. (2006). Urban First Nations people with disabilities speak out. *International Journal of Indigenous Health*, 3(1), 34.
- ⁴⁵ See for example, *Tanudjaja v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2014 ONCA 852. See also prior Ontario Superior Court decision, *Tanudjaja v. Attorney General (Canada) (Application)*, 2013 ONSC 5410 (CanLII).
- ⁴⁶ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 5, Persons with disabilities (Eleventh session, 1994), U.N. Doc E/1995/22 at 19 (1995), reprinted in *Compilation of General Comments and General Recommendations Adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies*, U.N. Doc. HRI/GEN/1/Rev.6 at 24 (2003).
- ⁴⁷ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Concluding Observations (Canada) (2006) E/C.12/1/Add.31 at para. 45
- ⁴⁸ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Concluding Observations (Canada) (2006) E/C.12/1/Add.31.
- ⁴⁹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Concluding Observations (Canada) 2016) E/C.12/CAN/CO/6 paras. 40-41

⁵⁰ Human Rights Committee. Concluding Obseervations (Canada) (1999) CCPR/C/79/Add.105 para 12.

⁵¹ Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC), *The Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Equality and Non-Discrimination: Monitoring the Implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Canada* (Ottawa: CHRC, 2015).

⁵² Affidavit of Paula Nina Goering, Full Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto & Affiliate Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, "Homelessness and People with Mental Illness and Addiction"; Affidavit of Michael Bach, Executive Vice President, Canadian Association for Community Building, "Barriers to Adequate Housing for People with Intellectual Disabilities".

⁵³ [Tanudjaja v. Canada \(Attorney General\), 2014 ONCA 852](#). See also prior Ontario Superior Court decision, [Tanudjaja v. Attorney General \(Canada\) \(Application\), 2013 ONSC 5410 \(CanLII\)](#)

⁵⁴ CESCR, Concluding Observation: Canada. E/C. 12/CAN/CO/5, E/C. 12/CAN/CO5 (22 May 2006) para 11(b).

⁵⁵ E/C.12/CAN/CO/6 para 5.