



State of Nations: Canada 2017-2018

iimhl/iidl Leadership Exchange 2017
Sydney, Australia, Feb. 27-Mar. 3, 2017



Introduction

- Government of Canada expanding opportunities for persons with disabilities
 - For the first time Canada has a Minister for Persons with Disabilities.



The Office for Disability Issues (Odi)

- Focal point for disability issues within the Government of Canada and across the country.
- Promoting iidl within Canada:
 - Partnership
 - Leadership



Key Highlights:

- International
- Federal
- Provincial/Territorial
- Community



Key Highlights: International

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (uncrpd):
 - April 2017--Canada's appearance on its First Report regarding the implementation of the crpd.
 - Un Optional Protocol to crpd – Government of Canada had begun consultations on Canada's possible accession to the protocol.



Key Highlights: International

- Marrakesh Treaty
 - Minor amendments to the Canada's *Copyright Act* were required for full compliance.
 - On June 30, 2016, Canada became the 20th country to accede to the Treaty, which brought it into force on September 30, 2016.



Key Highlights: Federal

- Accessibility Legislation
 - Remove barriers and increase accessibility in areas of federal jurisdiction.
 - Formal consultation process launched June 2016, concluded February 2017.
 - Set new standard of accessibility for federal consultations (multiple modes of participation, services and materials).
 - Most significant engagement on disability issues since 1995-96.



Key Highlights: Federal

Elections Canada

- Adopting innovative practices to make elections more accessible, e.g. printing an accessibility checklist for polling stations on voter information cards, and providing election material in alternate formats.

Video Relay Service

- Launched across Canada in September 2016. Use of voice telephone, video and sign language interpreters to allow communication between people with and without hearing disabilities.

Medical Assistance in Dying

- Vulnerable Persons Standard provides safeguards to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.



Key Highlights: Federal

National Housing Strategy

- Budget 2016 provided significant funding under the Social Infrastructure Fund to improve access to affordable housing for low-income households and other vulnerable Canadians across the country.

Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy (Prs)

- Federal government leading discussion with p/t's on development of a prs that will address vulnerable populations including persons with disabilities.

Social Infrastructure Fund

- Budget 2016 provided close to \$574 million over two years to support repairs and energy and water retrofits and renovation of existing social housing units. The majority of this funding is flowing through the p/ts.



Key Highlights: p/t Priorities

- P/t Priorities
 - Person-centred Service Systems
 - Social and Economic Inclusion
 - Supported Living
 - Disability Supports Cognitive Disabilities and those with Complex Needs



Key Highlights: Community

- Renewed engagement with national organizations
 - Focus on capacity of organizations
 - Promote leadership and diversity in disability and ngo sectors
- Next
 - Priorities from Federal Budget 2017



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