



# CAN Human Rights Table

November 2, 2020  
Teleconference  
Minutes of Meeting

**Chair:** Mezaun Lakha-Evin, Sean Crump

Present

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| Mezaun Lakha-Evin (CPA/CAN)                | Sam Mason (VAD)                      |
| Margot Brunner (VAD)                       | Dan Pederson (Community Advocate)    |
| Cam Stewart (AHRC)                         | Marc Workman (Service Alberta)       |
| Christopher Warner (CNIB)                  | Sean Crump (Universal Access)        |
| Kent Hehr (Politician/Advocate)            | Angela Symon (Community Advocate)    |
| Ermira Kusari (CAN)                        | Stacey Stilling (Accessible Housing) |
| Rachel Martens (Kids Brain Health Network) | Alison Stutz (Deaf and Hear Alberta) |

Item	
1	Welcome and Introductions
2	Approval of October 22 minutes
3	<p><b><u>Accessibility Legislation Strategic Plan</u></b></p> <p><b>Goal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enactment of strong and effective accessibility legislation in Alberta that will result in a fully accessible province.</li> </ul> <p><b>Principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nothing about us without us</b> – The disability community in Alberta will be fully engaged in the process to develop the legislation.</li> <li>• <b>Barrier prevention and removal</b> – The legislation will both remove existing barriers and prevent the creation of new ones.</li> <li>• <b>Insert additional principles from CAN</b> – <i>CAN TOR attached to the email.</i></li> <li>• At the international level, consideration is being given to the idea of <b>Radical Accessibility</b>, looking at various barriers such as income and language.</li> </ul> <p><b>Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What is the name of this group?</b> Currently operating under the Calgary Ability Network Human Rights table. It is important that the group be called by an Alberta name. CAN is exploring an expansion however that is currently dependent on funding. Name to be revisited in two weeks.</li> <li>- Explore the option for a subcommittee, e.g. Alberta Barrier-Free Committee.</li> <li>• <b>Who is leading this initiative?</b> Stakeholders ultimately lead this initiative.</li> </ul>

- **How are decisions made?** Decisions are made at the CAN table.
- **How should this group be organized?** Subcommittees may be used. The subcommittee will carry out the work and meet more frequently and report back to the CAN Human Rights table quarterly.

### Partners

- **Which, if any, organizations do we want to partner with on this initiative?**

- **Partners** – active participants that help push the initiative forward.
- **Supporters** – affiliating themselves with the content of accessibility legislation. Supporters are key players in this initiative. Important supporters would be Chambers of Commerce.

- **How will we go about building a coalition?** A call to action will be developed and interested parties will be asked to offer their support. An interesting model of stakeholder collaboration to examine could be Imagine Citizens ([www.imaginecitizens.ca](http://www.imaginecitizens.ca))

### Risks/Mitigation

- **What are the main risks that could prevent us from achieving our goal?** A lack of focus may prevent us.
- **What can we do to mitigate these risks?** Developing a comprehensive plan should help with focus.

### Communications

- **What communication tools will we use to achieve our goal?** Social media, CAN's email network, website (both for internal communication and external communication), Google applications, distribution lists.
- **What rules and processes need to be in place to ensure our communications are consistent and effective?** We should strive for communications that are simple and straightforward. Bring in contributors who have a background in communications.

### Media

- **How will media be used, if at all, in achieving our goal?** Should a meeting with the CSS Minister present itself, we can utilize the media to announce the first steps of the initiative, along with other key messages. We can utilize the media to raise awareness about the need for an accessibility legislation without necessarily criticizing the Government, and this could help bring people on board to support the initiative.
- **Who will act as a spokesperson(s) with media?** Having a spokesperson keep the messaging consistent.
  - If we secure a meeting with the CSS Minister, we should keep the number of representatives small, around 4, consisting of a variety of disabilities and gender parity.

## **Key Messages**

- **What are the top four or five key messages that we want to get across in every discussion about our goal?** We need to establish 4-5 key messages that we can communicate whether to the media or in a meeting with the Minister.

## **Timeline**

- **What is an ideal but realistic timeline for achieving our goal?** 2 general approaches:
  - Approach 1: try to get it in this term of the Government and treat it as a potential good news opportunity for the Government. The risk associated with this approach is that the legislation might get rushed.
  - Approach 2: wait until the next election and get every party to commit, in their platform, to pass a strong and effective disability legislation.
  - We should set timelines and plans for both cases, should the Government agree to it at the initial meeting and should the Government not agree to it.
  - Red tape reduction: unless it is voluntary, this could increase red tape. In the case of this legislation, considering that various legislations such as Human Rights and Building Standards, we would only be evolving the red tape that exists for a more inclusive community.
  - When we have the meeting with the Minister and if start on the consultations, we will likely not have a consultation report before the next election so we should push the consultations to be done before the next election and part two could be done with all the parties running and see their platforms and what they plan to do in regards to accessibility.
- **What are the key milestones along the way to achieving our goal?**
  - Mark Workman will put together a potential timeline of when things could happen and present at the next meeting, on November 16, 2020.

## **Activities**

- **What activities do we need to undertake over the next 6 to 12 months?** To be addressed at a later time once we have a timeline.
- **Who is responsible for undertaking these activities?** To be addressed at a later time once we have a timeline.

## **Document hosting and sharing**

- Send out a survey to the table members with a number of options in terms of platforms that people would prefer to use for this purpose. Currently using a shared Google Drive folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rwy-ClwGearLiYVCS65498wFurYMumxV?usp=sharing>

## **Concerns/Insights on moving forward:**

- Any concerns should be brought forward so we can address them accordingly. A word document is available on the shared folder for everyone to place their concerns/insights.



**Follow-up letter to the Minister:**

- Draft and send a letter to the Minister to request acknowledgement that they have received our letter with the meeting request regarding this initiative.

**Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA):**

- Passed in 2005 and have until 2025 to reach their target.  
- They started pushing for an accessibility legislation in 1995. A piece of legislation was passed in 2000 however it was not good as it was on voluntary basis as far as businesses were concerned to comply with it.

4 Wrap-Up/Adjournment

**Next meeting:**

**Date:** November 16, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom

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