



Welcome to the CACL Inclusion Matters Newsletter!

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From Our Family, To Yours

The end of the year is fast approaching! We at CACL would like to express our sincerest appreciation for your continued support of our work toward an inclusive Canada where everyone belongs.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you in the new year.

From our family to yours: we wish you all the joys of the holiday season and a 2016 filled with peace, love, and hope.

Sincerely, Joy Bacon, President & Michael Bach, Executive Vice-President



Protecting Choice and Safeguarding Inclusion

Following the Government of Canada's recent request for a six-month extension to review the issue and develop new laws governing physician-assisted suicide/voluntary euthanasia, CACL is calling on governments and health professions to give much more attention to how vulnerable patients will be identified and cared for in the new system.

CACL shares with all Canadians the value of a health care system that promotes patient autonomy and dignity in end-of-life care.

[Read more](#) about the safeguards we propose to protect vulnerable Canadians.



New Survey on Disability and Accessibility: Canadians See Room for Improvement in Communities

The vast majority of Canadians want their communities to be fully accessible for people with disabilities, and believe their country should be a leader on this front. But they also see massive gaps between this ideal and the reality people with mobility challenges face where they live.

Canadians also recognize barriers to employment and education facing people with disabilities, but one-in-two say "it's understandable" if businesses feel it's risky to hire employees with these challenges.

These are among the findings of a new national survey canvassing disability and accessibility issues conducted by the Angus Reid Institute, in partnership with the Rick Hansen Foundation. The summary report is divided into five sections: public perception of disability; analysis of these perceptions; barriers and gaps in accessibility; exposure to disability in day-to-day life; and, where disability sits on the public agenda.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

CACL in Action

We've been on the move this past month! Here are some highlights:

- Ready, Willing and Able National Team led by Director Don Gallant convened partnership meetings in Ottawa, ON to share the incredible success of RWA and to strategize on growing the impact



CACL EVP Michael Bach with The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, at the Speech from the Throne.

- CACL EVP Michael Bach attended the Speech from the Throne, delivered by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, to open the 42nd session of Parliament and outline the Government's agenda.
- With People First of Canada, CACL co-hosted the 6th Annual Federal Policy Forum on Inclusion in Ottawa, ON. Over 80 people from the Office of Disability Issues and national disability organizations attended the event. A reception hosted by Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities followed.

in 2016. [Learn more](#)

- Executive Vice-President, Michael Bach, met with the Manitoba ACL Board of Directors in Winnipeg to discuss CACL's new strategic plan, and ways of working together.
- In early December, IRIS continued its research and technical support on the Legal Capacity global initiative supported through the Open Society Foundations, in meetings at the project site in Bulgaria.
- CACL Past President Bendina Miller attended the Rick Hansen Accessibility Leadership Forum in Toronto, ON. This year's theme was *Inclusion Matters: Access and empowerment for people of all abilities*.
- CACL participated in meetings on the Canadian Civil Society Report to Canada's Initial *Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* Report at the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Ottawa, ON.



Inclusive Hires Demonstrate 0% Turnover

Visit any Wendy's Restaurant in Prince Edward Island and you'll find a diverse and inclusive workforce that has been part of the corporate culture for many years. "We've always been willing



Claiming Full Citizenship Conference Videos Now Available Online

The UBC Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship is committed to help transform human service systems so people with disabilities can live as full citizens in

to hire anyone who wants to work. There are employees with some form of disability in every one of our restaurants," says Mike Stargratt, Regional Manager at Wendy's Restaurants of PEI/DP Murphy Inc. "We believe in giving everyone an opportunity."

Callie is one of the company's most recent hires. As a customer service ambassador, she greets customers, does patron surveys, cleans trays and helps customers with their drink and food orders. According to a 2010 Deloitte study, employees with disabilities are typically associated with strong performance, good attendance and higher-than-usual job retention. "From a business perspective I don't think I have a better employee. She is passionate about what she does and never calls in sick. I wish we had a Callie in every store," says Stargratt.

[Read more](#)

their communities. In October 2015, the Centre brought together researchers, policy makers, government representatives, and community living and seniors' advocates at the *Claiming Full Citizenship* international conference. CACL's Executive Vice-President Michael Bach delivered plenary presentations on challenges and needs in trying to advance self-determination, supported decision-making, and individualized funding so that people with disabilities can claim their right to full citizenship.

The Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship has now made available online all [conference plenary presentations](#). The website will also be updated in the coming months to include interviews with conference presenters and participants, videos suggested by website visitors, and videos of individuals discussing what real citizenship means to them.

Upcoming Dates and Events

23 December 2015: CACL offices close for the holidays

4 January 2016: CACL offices re-open

21-22 January 2016: National ACL Federation meetings

CACL in the News

["Inclusion Matters" Celebrated on the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)



Canadian Association
for Community Living
Association canadienne pour
l'intégration communautaire

Diversity includes. On se ressemble.

STAY CONNECTED:

