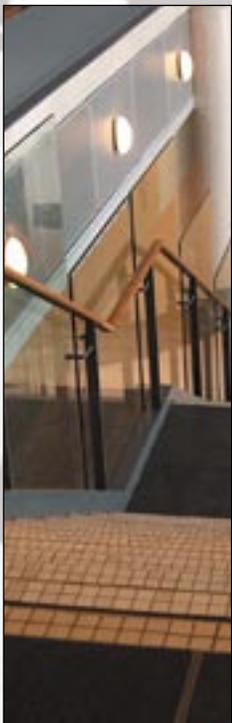


# ACCESSIBLE URBAN SPACE

A FACILITATED DISCUSSION ON INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES



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Western Economic  
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de l'Ouest Canada



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# P R E F A C E

The Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia is a non-partisan, independent charitable organization. Since 1966, SPARC BC has conducted public education and research on key social issues, focusing our efforts in the areas of accessibility, income security, and community development. Our mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all. A society that is just and healthy is also socially sustainable. We define that just and healthy society by four principles:

**EQUITY:** *The recognition that some individuals or groups require more or less than others to flourish, and that some individuals or groups are capable of contributing more to address deficiencies and promote fairness of distribution.*

**SOCIAL INCLUSION:** *The recognition that both the rights and the opportunity to participate in and enjoy all aspects of human life enables individuals and communities to celebrate their diversity and recognize and act on their responsibilities.*

**SECURITY:** *The recognition that individuals and communities flourish when they have confidence in their surroundings as safe, supportive and stable environments.*

**ADAPTABILITY:** *The recognition that sustainability requires resilience for both individuals and communities, and the ability to respond creatively to change.*

A just and healthy society is fully accessible to all of its members. It supports their independence, security, comfort, and self-esteem. An accessible community benefits from the participation of all of its members, ensuring that the community's total wealth of energy, talent, skills, and knowledge is included and accessible to all.

# ACCESSIBLE URBAN SPACE

**T**he World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization in a world where half of humanity lives in cities. The theme of this third session of WUF focuses on sustainable cities, with a sub-theme of social inclusion and cohesion.

Three keys to preventing marginalization, social exclusion, and urban poverty are:

- *The development of inclusive policies and legislation at the national and international levels,*
- *Good urban governance and consistent leadership at the local level, and*
- *The engagement of citizens in planning and design of more liveable spaces.*

Disability is a major factor of social exclusion throughout the world. Over 600 million people, approximately 10% of the world's population, have a disability.

Accessible urban space exists

when everyone is able to access the local services and resources they need for participation in the day-to-day activities of community life, such as work, learning, social and leisure activities, and civic engagement. Communities must acknowledge and accommodate a diversity of abilities in order to take advantage of the complete wealth of energy and talent available to them.

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“INCLUSION IS HAVING INPUT—A SAY ABOUT WHAT COMES AND GOES IN MY PARTICULAR PART OF THE CITY.”

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Accessible communities recognize that some of their members have impairments that affect how they function physically, cognitively, or socially, and that they should enjoy the same freedoms and choices as those who do not. In this context, accessibility becomes a concern for everyone. People with disabilities have too long been marginalized by a view of disability that

focuses on their impairments as the problems to be fixed. This attitude places responsibility on the person with the disability to “fix” themselves in order to integrate with society, or receive only “special” facilities designed for them.

Universal design is an approach to the design of environments, products, and services to make them useable for as many people as possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation. Advocates of accessibility point out that at one time or another, all people have some aspect of their mobility or senses impaired. It is important that our communities adopt affordable design that meets the needs of the widest possible range of people. Everyone benefits from an accessible society, and community cohesion is advanced, building a more inclusive community.

Community space is where activities and interactions occur. It is where we develop our sense of who we are. The creation, ordering, and maintenance of community space reflect a variety of

decision-making processes. Urban space needs to be designed by all participants who live, do paid and unpaid work, play, learn, sleep in homes or are homeless, walk, bike or ride public transit, use wheelchairs or other mobility aids, or have other visible and invisible disabilities within it. An inclusive city is one that provides opportunities for the optimal healthy development of all its residents. Inclusive processes promote the engagement of a community's diversity in civic dialogue.

The built environments in which we live must accommodate people with disabilities in order to be inclusive. Important issues for people with disabilities are:

**1. EASY ACCESS TO ALL PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY:** *The links between home, work, and the public spaces of the community must be supported by accessible transportation. Inadequate public, low-cost accessible transportation excludes people from the labour force, from socializing or leisure activities, and from civic and voluntary activities. Public transportation is a vital part of creating inclusive and accessible social space.*

**2. ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CO-LOCATED WITH SERVICES:** *The housing needs to be designed to be accessible, and adaptable to changing circum-*

*stances, but it also needs to be affordable for people with low incomes and located to support access to community services and activities.*

**3. INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT:** *Inclusive participation leads to improved governance—needs are better identified and responsiveness and efficiency are enhanced in the design and delivery of services. A community demonstrates its dedication to accessibility by not only addressing the issues of accessibility, but by also committing resources to expanding access to facilities, events, services, and processes.*



The Arthur Erickson-designed combination of a stair and ramp, "stramp," is an appealing accessibility feature of the provincial law courts in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

ACCESSIBILITY IS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THE EASE WITH WHICH PEOPLE CAN MOVE AROUND THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES, THROUGH ACCESSIBLE BUILDING DESIGN, SIGNAGE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Genuine participation in community cannot be achieved unless the freedom to move exists. Barriers to travel can be frustrating, dangerous, and exclusionary obstacles to day-to-day living for people with disabilities.

Accessible transportation includes public transit but also private vehicles, taxis, pedestrian ways, and the links between all forms of transportation. Accessibility must be addressed in the operation of the transportation as well as in its design.

While the discussion of transportation issues is often limited to environmental impacts, transportation access features prominently in social sustainability. It not only addresses individuals' needs, but also impacts the community in relation to its labour markets, local economy, and design. Social sustainability must integrate with the principles of environmental and economic sustainability.

The application of universal design principles when designing community infrastructure or transportation improves access for people with disabilities, and also enhances access for everyone else. The enjoyment of life increases when people feel in control of their environment, are able to exercise a range of choices, and can maintain an independent lifestyle.

Public spaces allow for people to come together and interact in a public realm. They can be cultural hubs, town squares, cafes, or parks. Accessibility of this "third space" diminishes the social exclusion of people with disabilities and promotes social cohesion. Inclusive communities are sustainable communities.

## ACCESSIBLE TROLLEY BUSES

The introduction of the Greater Vancouver Transit Authority's new accessible trolley buses marks an important step in the movement for social inclusion. With the approach of the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics, Vancouver's local transit company is making a concerted effort to ensure that the city is fully accessible. Although the current aging fleet of buses are environmentally friendly, they remain inaccessible to most people with mobility impairments. 228 low-floor electric trolley buses will replace the existing fleet by 2007. The buses also feature bicycle racks, battery backup for uninterrupted travel, kneeling capabilities and ramps. Vancouver's initiative offers a sustainable way to address the environmental and social challenges of the modern urban landscape.



Photos courtesy of TransLink.

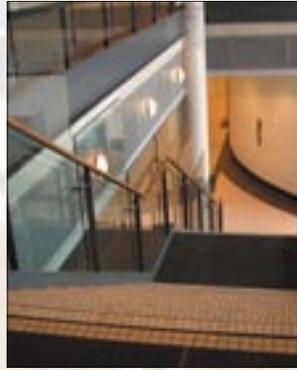
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** <[www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca)>



## CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

One of the main tenets of planning for accessible infrastructure is to ensure that it is not only functional, but also aesthetically pleasing. Thus, it is not surprising that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's (CNIB) new building is creating quite a stir. Combining functionality, aesthetics, and economy, it exemplifies the ease with which universal design principles can be applied. Costing only \$175 per square foot to build, it is efficient when compared to other commercial offices. Talking elevators, ramps, and signs in Braille are some of the more obvious features. However, the less noticeable features are equally important. For instance, the building's innovative use of natural light—floor-to-ceiling glass walls near the entrance and translucent window panels in meeting rooms—improve visibility by cutting down glare and easing the transition from outside to inside light. Counters at different heights are approachable by people in wheelchairs. Hand-held receivers trigger talking signs that give directions upon approach. Each of the features encourages clients to feel comfortable and included. The accessible building is demonstrably achievable, and benefits all of its users.



Photos courtesy of CNIB.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
<[www.cnib.ca](http://www.cnib.ca)>

- People with disabilities are three times as likely to experience difficulties in accessing transportation. 30% of people with disabilities have a problem with inadequate transportation, compared to only 10% of able-bodied people.

*(NOD/Harris Survey)*

- The gap between people with and without disabilities who had a problem with inadequate transportation widened by 7% between 1998 and 2000.

*(NOD/Harris Survey)*

- Inaccessible transportation and infrastructure affects people's ability to interact with each other and have a good quality of life. 79% of people with disabilities socialize with their friends at least twice a month, compared to 89% of people without disabilities.

*(NOD/Harris Survey)*

- 20 million people in the world who need a wheelchair do not have one. Many more have inappropriate or worn-out machines. *(New Internationalist #384)*

- In the developing world, 98% of children with disabilities do not attend school. *(New Internationalist #384)*

## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Dilli Haat, a craft bazaar located in the heart of Delhi, has recently become barrier-free. The campaign work of Samarthyaa, an organization based in India, resulted in Delhi Tourism implementing changes such as installing ramps, handrails, and accessible toilets.

<[www.samarthyaindia.com](http://www.samarthyaindia.com)>



# HOUSING & INDEPENDENT LIVING

ACCESSIBILITY MEANS THE PROVISION OF PHYSICAL SHELTER AS WELL AS THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES LEADING TO A LIVING ARRANGEMENT THAT MAXIMIZES INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

Many factors contribute to turning an apartment or a house into an “accessible home.” Addressing physical barriers is obvious, but affordability is also a significant concern.

Inclusive housing means living in a location where one feels free, safe and comfortable, and has access to reliable safe living assistance. Achieving and maintaining a balance between the level of independence desired and the availability of proper assistance results in an appropriate and supportive living environment. Accessible communities need to provide a range of barrier free housing, appropriate to people's choice, control, income, independence, and privacy. Encouraging the development of housing suitable for persons with disabilities helps to also ensure housing options are available for a wider range of people and their needs. Adaptable housing recognizes the reality that over a lifetime, accessibility needs will change for every individual and family. Design considerations that are included from the beginning of construction make it easier to adapt a living space for increased

accessibility when physical needs change. This kind of design can allow people to age in place and continue to use their established systems of supports without disruption. This type of design highlights adaptability, one of the hallmarks of sustainability.

More and more, the benefits of universal design to support accessible and adaptive housing are being promoted to architects, builders, developers, and consumers as being the most cost efficient long-term choice to make in the marketplace. Using the influence of market economics will encourage policy makers and developers to provide appropriate housing, and create a wider pool of opportunity for renters, owners, and builders alike. Availability helps, but still does not address the issues of affordability, which require ongoing support by government for social housing.

## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Until quite recently, people with disabilities in Japan were expected to be institutionalized or to completely rely on their families for support. They were not able to have the same level of independence as the able-bodied population. However, a growing independent living movement has resulted in the creation of housing projects, such as Kobe City Public Housing, which offer community-based services and are located in urban centres. These projects enable people with disabilities to have independent and fulfilling lives.

[www.independentliving.org/cib/cibtokyo.pdf](http://www.independentliving.org/cib/cibtokyo.pdf)



**SAFERHOME STANDARDS SOCIETY**

What do a lottery prize home and a major 80-acre redevelopment located on a former industrial site have in common? They will both follow the SAFERhome Standards advocated by the BC-based SAFERhome Standards Society, a non-profit, public interest organization, established in 2004 by a specialist in accessibility issues. The mission of the Society is to create sustainable communities by delivering inclusive housing solutions, certification and educational programs. SAFERhome staff are experienced in working with architects, builders and consumers, and government officials. They can demonstrate the market advantages of building accessible homes. They can assist with the planning, construction, and application of the 19-point standardized design overlay, and with obtaining municipal approval of houses built to SAFERhome standards. At less than \$1000 per housing unit, the standards do not involve any changes to existing building codes and bylaws. The Society also maintains a registry of houses that are SAFERhome certified.



Graphics courtesy of City of Vancouver.

**MORE INFO ON THE SAFERHOME STANDARDS SOCIETY CAN BE FOUND AT:**  
[www.saferhomesociety.com](http://www.saferhomesociety.com)

**THE SAFERHOME STANDARDS CAN BE VIEWED AT:**  
[www.saferhomesociety.com/\\_resources/19steps.pdf](http://www.saferhomesociety.com/_resources/19steps.pdf)

**ADAPTABLE HOUSING GUIDELINES**

The City of North Vancouver has developed and implemented guidelines for inclusion of adaptable features that are either adjustable, or capable of being easily and immediately added or removed, in order to “adapt” a dwelling unit to changing needs or preferences. In an adaptable unit, wide doors, no steps, knee spaces, control and switch locations, grab bar reinforcing and other access features must be built in, but don’t have to be installed until required. The guidelines comprise checklists for “design elements” and “fixtures and fittings” and contain three levels, each requiring a certain level of accessibility and adaptability for those with mobility, hearing and sight limitations. Local government can play a major role in facilitating the ability of residents to live independently in the community. This highly urban municipality chose to target one level units in multi-unit buildings for this policy. Since 1997 almost 1500 adaptable design units have been built or are under development. Other municipalities have also adopted the guidelines.



Photo courtesy of the City of North Vancouver.

**THE ADAPTABLE HOUSING GUIDELINES CAN BE VIEWED AT:**  
[www.cnv.org/c/data/3/325/2005%20ADG%20package.pdf](http://www.cnv.org/c/data/3/325/2005%20ADG%20package.pdf)

- 1 in 5 Canadians with disabilities need housing adaptations of some kind. *(Canadian Association of Independent Living Centers)*

*(Canadian Association of Independent Living Centers)*

- 1 in 7 Canadians with a disability has affordability problems with respect to housing. *(CAILO)*

- 53% of people with disabilities in Canada need adaptive features in their

homes yet do not have them. Many of these adaptations are relatively inexpensive

to install, such as grab bars and lever handles on doors. *(CAILO)*

- Counting family members who are directly affected, one fifth of the world’s population lives with disability on a daily basis. *(NOD/Harris Survey)*

- In Kenya, out of 160,000 people with visual impairment, only 2% are employed

*(New Internationalist #384)*

# PARTICIPATION

ACCESSIBILITY INCREASES BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH PEOPLE CAN BECOME ENGAGED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND CIVIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

Communities are stronger when the visions and experiences of residents are integrated into their policies and plans. Making cities accessible demands the participation of the people most affected by the decisions.

Genuine participation, where diversity is celebrated and recognized, and citizens become engaged to act on their responsibilities, requires an acknowledgement of the principle of equity, and commitment and resources from everyone in society.

The most prevailing barrier to participation for people with disabilities is attitudes—stereotypes and prejudices about physical, cognitive, and social impairments—that impedes the ability of others to recognize them as members of the community with skills, talents, and insights to contribute. People with disabilities have been challenging these barriers using a variety of tools. Artists with disabilities have used adaptive skills and creative ways to express the unique talent and life perspectives they possess. Supported participation is another way in which barriers to contributing to civic life can be overcome.

The dialogue process has gained considerable international popularity in recent years. It continues to prove itself a robust and effective method of inclusive engagement. Dialogue, with its basis in purposeful talk among equals, has the potential to create community. It is distinct from debate and negotiation in that agreement is not a goal; the process is undertaken to allow the participants to examine and challenge assumptions, and receive the opportunity to reach new understandings. Dialogue planning attends to the meaningful inclusion of those participants who are not often involved in public deliberation.

The principles of participation remain central to the concept of community. Spaces for inclusive physical, intellectual, and emotional engagement are the hallmarks of healthy and accessible communities.

## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

A group of Nicaraguan disability activists shook up a lethargic local government that not only refused to build any ramps, but also threatened to fine \$30 for every curb that was "damaged". Facing repeated rebuttals from the local authority, the group mobilized a massive awareness campaign. The resulting public outcry forced the government to install 400 ramps. The following year, a presidential decree officially recognized the norms of accessibility.

[www.newint.org/issue384/revolucion.htm](http://www.newint.org/issue384/revolucion.htm)



## KICKSTART

Opportunities for participation in public life for people with disabilities can be few and far between. One creative contribution to filling this gap is the KickstART festival, held in Vancouver in 2001 and again in 2004. While people with disabilities have always made art, KickstART is a movement of artists



"Domino Effect" installation by Rhonda Simmons (2004).  
Photo by Scott Massey.

with disabilities working together creating a 'disability arts' community. In assembling this festival of performing and visual arts, the organizers focused on discovering what the artists had to say to each other and the world, as people with disabilities. While many artists portrayed personal journeys, many also featured the common issues faced by people with disabilities, such as battles against the government and a dysfunctional healthcare system. Rhonda Simmons, an Afro-Canadian artist chose to manifest her frustration with the chaos of government reductions to programs and resources, through creation of the Domino Effect. The art piece is fashioned after the childhood game of dominoes, but with words associated with poverty in place of the more familiar dots. It is a powerful way of conveying the reality that those with resources are the fortunate ones—for it is only a game for them, whereas, for the poor, there is no walking away.

**MORE INFORMATION ON THE KICKSTART CAN BE FOUND AT:** <[www.s4dac.org](http://www.s4dac.org)>

## THE 3D PROJECT

A fully inclusive participatory process is one of the keystones of accessible urban space. Some members of the community, however, may require supports to achieve meaningful participation. With this in mind, SPARC BC and the BC Association for Community Living developed a program to support the participation of people with developmental delay in dialogues and other community processes. Piloted as part of SPARC BC's 2005 Dialogue on Accessibility, the project supported eight young adults with developmental delays to launch the dialogue process with a presentation of their lived experiences, and then to fully participate in each of the components of the dialogue. Training sessions on the dialogue content and process, the development of mutual support among the group of peers, and familiarity with the volunteers who worked as supports for the group, prepared the youths for the event. A volunteer helped each project member during the dialogue and the facilitators also received guidance on how to make space for their participation. The principles of supported participation can be applied to almost any process. The complete program—including curriculum, participant manual, and community guide—empowers a more equitable approach to participation and supports more complete participation.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT EMESE SZÜCS AT SPARC BC:** <[emeses@sparc.bc.ca](mailto:emeses@sparc.bc.ca)>

- People with disabilities in the United States are 20% less likely to vote. Voters with disabilities are far more likely than their non-disabled peers to encounter and/or expect barriers at polling stations.

*(CAILC)*

- Among people with disabilities who are working, 1 in 5 has been discriminated against. *(NOD/Harris Survey)*

- Concerted efforts can bring big changes. In 1988 the international community committed itself to polio eradication. That year there were 350,000 cases of the disease in the world. By 2004, there were only 1,255.

*(New Internationalist #384)*

- Only 29% of people with severe disabilities agree that they are regularly invited to give their opinions on important community issues, compared to 46% of people without disabilities. *(NOD/Harris Survey)*

- People with disabilities are one-and-one-half times more likely than people without disabilities to say that they feel left out of things in their communities—48% versus 32%. *(NOD/Harris Survey)*

# A C T I V I T I E S

Among the major outcomes of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons was the adoption, by the United Nations General Assembly, of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in 1993. Although not a legally binding instrument, the rules contained within represent a strong moral and political commitment of Governments to take action to attain equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. The rules

serve as an instrument for policy-making and as a basis for technical and economic cooperation.

The Standard Rules consists of 22 rules organized in four chapters: preconditions for equal participation, target areas for equal participation, implementation measures, and the monitoring mechanism. They cover all aspects of life of disabled persons.

A new phase of activities commenced in 2001: General Assembly resolution 56/168 of December 2001 established an Ad Hoc Committee "to consider proposals for a

comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development."

The Ad Hoc Committee has worked over the last five years to negotiate and develop a draft text of an International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention is increasingly being seen as an important advocacy tool for establishing standards of accessibility. The Ad Hoc Committee will convene for its Eighth Session from 14 to 25 August 2006, with a view to finalizing its negotiations based on the revised draft text. The next steps will involve ratification and adoption by the UN.

The draft text of the ICRPD has



Photo courtesy of TransLink.

# RATIFICATION TOOLKIT

Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) is a network of national organizations or assemblies of disabled people, established to promote human rights of disabled people through full participation, equalization of opportunity and development.

DPI has been an active non-governmental organization participant in the Ad Hoc Committee on the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ICRPD) and is anticipating completion of the negotiations on the Convention in the near future.

However they and many other stakeholders recognize that once the ICRPD has been adopted and becomes open for signature, there will still be many challenges ahead in getting it signed and ratified by enough countries to bring it into force.

With that in mind, on May 26, 2006 in Ottawa, Canada, DPI launched their new Ratification toolkit. They are offering it to everyone who may find it useful as the global campaign for Signature and Ratification begins.

DPI invites organizations to use the Ratification toolkit to aid in their support of the treaty development process as it moves forward towards the implementation of this historic Convention. The toolkit is available in English, French and Spanish at

<[www.icrpd.net](http://www.icrpd.net)>

more than 40 articles designed to deal with the wide range of issues facing persons with disabilities. In addition there are articles on monitoring, as well as legal articles on bringing the convention into force.

The draft articles of the ICRPD that relate to the three dimensions of accessible urban space in this dialogue are:

**ARTICLE 9: ACCESSIBILITY**

*Relates to Transportation and Infrastructure component*

**ARTICLE 19: LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AND BEING INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Relates to Housing and Independent Living component*

**ARTICLE 29: PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE**

*Relates to Participation component*

The World Bank is also supporting activity concerning accessibility and inclusion. The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted in 2000 by the Heads of State and Government of UN member countries,

set specific development targets to be achieved by the year 2015. However, none of the Goals make reference to the precarious situation of persons with disabilities, nor provide for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts. It has now been determined by the World Bank and other international organizations that many of the Goals cannot be achieved without addressing the needs of disabled persons, especially women and children.

In recognition of this shortcoming and in conformity with MDG Goal 8 "Partnerships", a Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD) was initiated by the World Bank to combat the social and economic exclusion and impoverishment of people with disabilities and their families in developing countries. The GPDD is working to increase awareness and understanding, and to promote the inclusion of disability issues and the participation of persons with disabilities in



Photo courtesy of CNIB.



Photo Courtesy of KickstART. By Scott Massey.

“THE PROBLEMS WE FACE IN OUR SOCIETY ARE SO COMPLEX THAT NO MATTER HOW WELL TRAINED OR EDUCATED WE ARE, THINKING ALONE IS INADEQUATE. MOST OFTEN, OUR KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED. WE NEED THE BENEFIT OF MANY VIEWPOINTS TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS.”

—Joanna Ashworth

mainstream economic and social development efforts of developing country governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, development banks, UN agencies, development NGOs, disabled persons' organizations, NGOs working in the field of disability, foundations, public and private enterprises, and other partner organizations, both internationally and nationally.

## AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Innovation in planning for social issues takes place in the public, private and civil society sectors. Planning in the public sector is highly influential because it sets the regulatory and incentive frameworks under which private and civil society actors operate. However, the private and civil society sectors can also make substantial contributions through the development of new planning concepts, tools, and processes. New governance

models can encourage the creation of inter-sectoral strategic alliances and partnerships that demonstrate the positive impacts from applying combined resources.

Within this context, planning for accessibility needs the elements of universal design, commitment to inclusion, and champions.

While the practice of Universal Design has shown a gradual increase in world-wide acceptance, a recent study by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (Gullison 2004) notes shortcomings in current state of knowledge of human variables and design guidelines in Canada. The study recommends further qualitative and quantitative research, illustration of best practices, and distribution of active models.

Resources are also required to support inclusive process and engagement. Annual accessibility plans are an emerging tool that

helps communities identify barriers to accessibility, develop policy and program inventories, and outline future plans to address accessibility. Legislative frameworks for accessibility can support the allocation of resources to this type of planning. Advisory committees can also ensure that people with disabilities have a valued role in the planning processes.

Champions for inclusive communities advocate for the support of the independence, comfort, self-esteem and security of all, especially those who are marginalized with disabilities or with other factors of social exclusion. They promote the perspective that accessibility is more than just physical design, and demand improved and inclusive processes in civic engagement. They work to secure the necessary resources for creating access. They work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all.

# R E S O U R C E S

## HOUSING & INDEPENDENT LIVING

### **ADAPTIVE ENVIRONMENTS: HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN**

<[www.adaptenv.org](http://www.adaptenv.org)>

### **FAIR HOUSING ACT DESIGN MANUAL: A MANUAL TO ASSIST DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS IN MEETING THE ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT**

<[www.huduser.org/Publications/PDF/FAIRHOUSING/fairfull.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/Publications/PDF/FAIRHOUSING/fairfull.pdf)>

### **FLEX HOUSING ADAPTS TO LIFE'S CHANGES**

<[www.enablelink.org/include/article.php?pid=&cid=&subid=&aid=1632](http://www.enablelink.org/include/article.php?pid=&cid=&subid=&aid=1632)>

### **HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: A STUDY OF GOOD PRACTICE IN FOUR LONDON BOROUGHES**

<[www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/archiveuk/GLAD/housing.pdf](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/archiveuk/GLAD/housing.pdf)>

### **STRATEGIES FOR PROVIDING ACCESSIBILITY AND VISITABILITY FOR HOPE VI AND MIXED FINANCE HOMEOWNERSHIP**

<[www.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/strategies.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/strategies.pdf)>

## INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

### **BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY: A MANUAL ON INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

<[pdf.dec.org/pdf\\_docs/PNACY408.pdf](http://pdf.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACY408.pdf)>

### **THE DISABILITY DIMENSION IN DEVELOPMENT ACTION: MANUAL ON INCLUSIVE PLANNING**

<[www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/publications/FF-DisabilityDim0103\\_b1.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/publications/FF-DisabilityDim0103_b1.pdf)>

## PARTICIPATION

### **ACCESS FOR ALL: HELPING TO MAKE PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE**

<[www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk\\_cache/scuk/cache/cmsattach/485\\_accessall.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk_cache/scuk/cache/cmsattach/485_accessall.pdf)>

### **AN INCLUSIONARY MODEL FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

<[www.sarkissian.com.au/downloads/Sarkissian%20Associates%20Planners/Inclusionary%20model%20of%20consultation.pdf](http://www.sarkissian.com.au/downloads/Sarkissian%20Associates%20Planners/Inclusionary%20model%20of%20consultation.pdf)>

### **COUNT ME IN!**

<[www.opc.on.ca/english/our\\_programs/hlth\\_promo/project\\_ini/count\\_me\\_in/pdf/cmi\\_wrkbk\\_eng\\_apr05.pdf](http://www.opc.on.ca/english/our_programs/hlth_promo/project_ini/count_me_in/pdf/cmi_wrkbk_eng_apr05.pdf)>

### **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (IAP2)**

<[iap2.org](http://iap2.org)>

### **SIMPLE SOLUTIONS: A MANUAL – HOW NGOS CAN ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO VOLUNTEERING BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

<[www.peicod.pe.ca/pub/pub-downloads/simple%20solutions.pdf](http://www.peicod.pe.ca/pub/pub-downloads/simple%20solutions.pdf)>

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

### **ACCESS EXCHANGE INTERNATIONAL – RESOURCES AND WEB LINKS**

<[globalride-sf.org/rnl.html](http://globalride-sf.org/rnl.html)>

### **ACOUSTICAL DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW YORK CITY RAILWAY STATIONS: IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY FOR HEARING AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PATRONS**

<[www.designfor21st.org/proceedings/proceedings/project\\_nichols.html](http://www.designfor21st.org/proceedings/proceedings/project_nichols.html)>

### **CODE OF PRACTICE ON ACCESS AND MOBILITY: AN ADVISORY DOCUMENT REFLECTING BEST PRACTICE AND CURRENT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DESIGN OF BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

<[www.accesscode.info/index.htm](http://www.accesscode.info/index.htm)>

### **OVERSEAS ROAD NOTE 21: ENHANCING THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED PEOPLE – GUIDELINES FOR PRACTITIONERS IN DEVELOPING REGIONS**

<[www.globalride-sf.org/pdf/orn21.pdf](http://www.globalride-sf.org/pdf/orn21.pdf)>

### **PLANNING FOR BARRIER-FREE MUNICIPALITIES**

<[www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/page\\_attachments/Library/1/2702500\\_barrier\\_free.pdf](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/page_attachments/Library/1/2702500_barrier_free.pdf)>

## SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY

### **DISABILITY, POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT (DFID, FEBRUARY 2000)**

<[www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/disability.pdf](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/disability.pdf)>

### **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

<[www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahc7ann2rep.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahc7ann2rep.htm)>

### **REPORT OF THE UN CEG MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND STANDARDS RELATING TO DISABILITY**

<[www.independentliving.org/docs4/disberk.pdf](http://www.independentliving.org/docs4/disberk.pdf)>

### **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES**

<[www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/archiveuk/index.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/archiveuk/index.html)>

### **VALUING DIVERSITY: THE DISABILITY AGENDA**

<[www.independentliving.org/docs6/campbell20011109.html](http://www.independentliving.org/docs6/campbell20011109.html)>

## UNIVERSAL DESIGN

### **ASID UNIVERSAL DESIGN RESOURCE CENTRE**

<[www.asid.org/resource/Universal+Design.htm](http://www.asid.org/resource/Universal+Design.htm)>

### **THE CENTRE FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

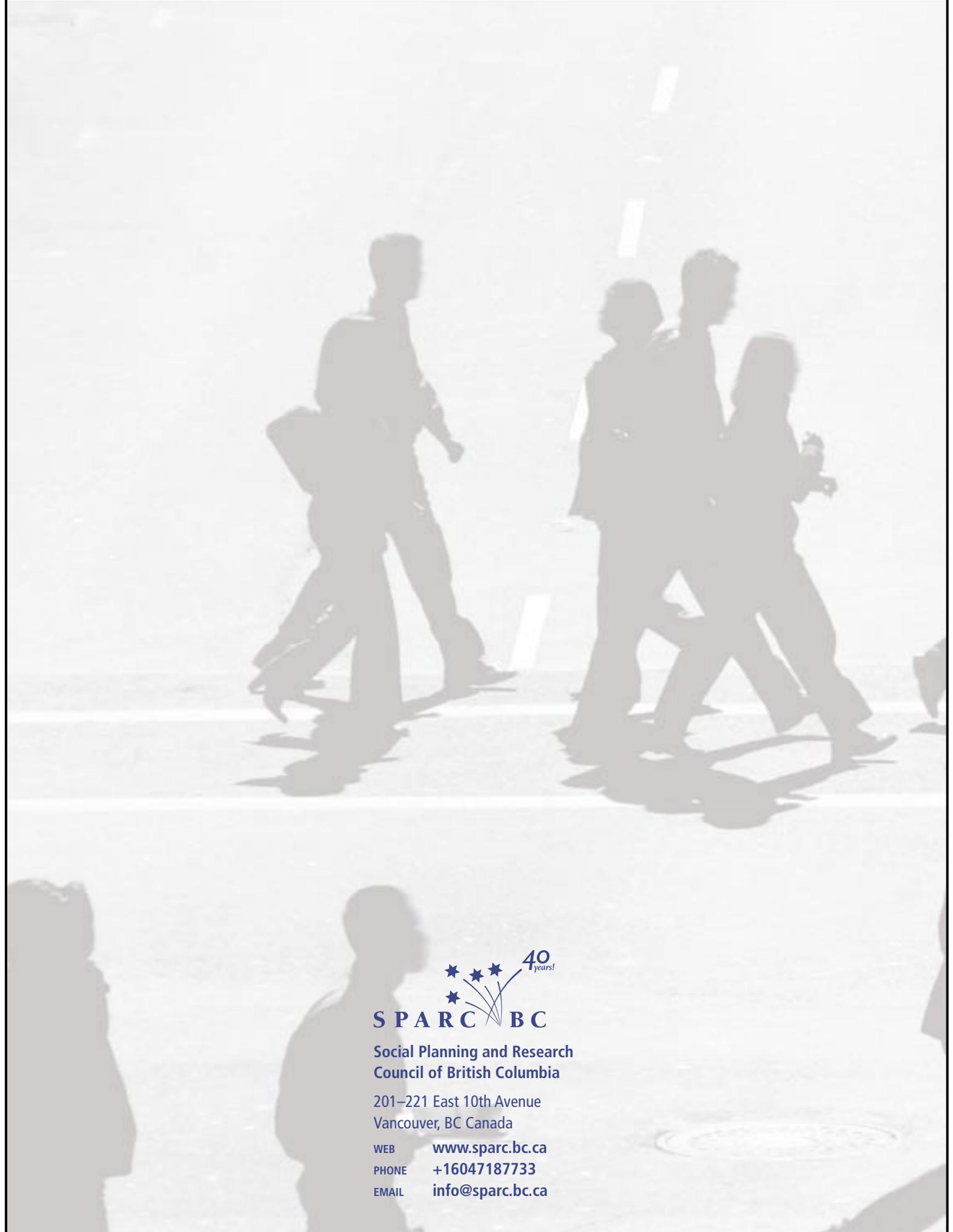
<[www.design.ncsu.edu/cud](http://www.design.ncsu.edu/cud)>

### **DESIGNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY III: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

<[www.designfor21st.org](http://www.designfor21st.org)>

### **INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES IN UNIVERSAL DESIGN: A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

<[www.bdel.ca/UDBPGuide.htm](http://www.bdel.ca/UDBPGuide.htm)>



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