

Hon. Thomas Mulcair
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada
300 - 279 Laurier West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J9

August 17, 2015

Dear Honourable Thomas Mulcair,

As the 2015 federal election campaign unfolds, the Barrier-Free Canada Committee is calling on you and your party to help ensure every Canadian can participate fully in our country's democratic process.

More than four million people in Canada are living with a disability, representing a significant percentage of the electorate. When these citizens go to the polls on October 19, it is vital that they do so having had a full and equal opportunity to meet their candidates, consider their options and make informed choices. Indeed, this is their right as Canadians.

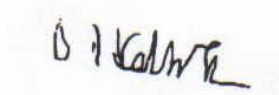
Throughout the campaign period, all-candidate debates, forums and other events will be held in ridings across the country. As these events are scheduled, accessibility must be a central consideration for organizers and participating candidates and parties.

As the leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, we are strongly urging your party, your candidates and you, personally, to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to any and all national and local debates, forums and campaign events.

Chosen venues cannot present any barriers to their attendance and active participation. A failure to provide access constitutes an infringement of their guaranteed Charter rights.

We thank you in advance for your support, and look forward to hearing from you in regard to your commitments on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Donna Jodhan
On behalf of
The Barrier-Free Canada Committee