



Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario

www.cwdo.org

“Together We Are Stronger”

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September 15, 2015

CWDO Supports Barrier-Free Canada and its Campaign for a Federal Canadians with Disabilities Act.

Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario (CWDO) is committed to the rights of all persons to participate fully in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social life of their communities. CWDO actively promotes the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of persons with disabilities through community development, social action, and member support and referral. Our primary activity is public education and awareness about the social and physical barriers that prevent the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Ontario. Our members have various disabilities – mobility, vision, hearing, mental health, learning and developmental disabilities. People with disabilities represent about 15% of Ontario's population and are protected from discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

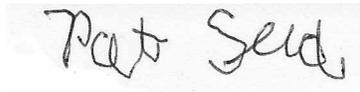
Our members have seen the direct benefits of having a law in place that directly supports their rights at the provincial level; however, they have also encountered the barriers created by the lack of a federal law that directly addresses their needs and sets concrete requirements. The creation of a Canadians with Disabilities Act would put increased emphasis for inclusive design and accessibility of public services by people with disabilities as a national priority. It would require organizations such as crown corporations and federally regulated organizations to implement accessibility standards and leverage the buying power of these organizations to ensure universal design principles are emphasized in the procurement of new Information &

Communication Technology Systems, Services, Information and environments.

The Canadian federal government should be leading the way in removing barriers for its citizens with disabilities and not lagging behind provincial governments such as Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and British Columbia who all either have or are in the process of moving toward provincial accessibility legislation.

Citizens With Disabilities Ontario (CWDO) is a proud supporter of Barrier-Free Canada and its campaign for a federal Canadians with Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Seed". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pat Seed
Chairperson