



**BARRIER  
FREE  
CANADA**

**SANS  
BARRIÈRE  
CANADA**

The Barrier Free Canada – Canada Sans Barrières

October 2019 Newsletter

*Third Quarter*

**Dear Friends,**

**Barrier Free Canada is again grateful to all of you for staying connected with us. We are very proud to have had a powerful presence in the creation of the Accessible Canada Act (ACA). This Act is a historical landmark in Canadian History and we would like to continue to work to stay connected with you, as we strive for equal opportunities for all in Canada. Barrier Free Canada is reaching out to you to please share events with us that are taking place in your community. We are looking for stories that positively impact people with varying disabilities. We invite you to connect with us at our Barrier Free Canada email: [info@barrierfreecanada.org](mailto:info@barrierfreecanada.org). We would like to have stories and events from across Canada of what is happening across our country that impacts fellow Canadians with disabilities. Please share the links that will connect us with your community and how you are working towards a more inclusive society.**

## ***Summary of Activities***

### **July**

Canadian Airlines Ask Appeal Court to Quash New Passenger Rights Rules

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-ko>

Photo Alt: Image. Passengers wait to check-in at Trudeau Airport on July 19, 2017 in Montreal.

The Barrier Free Canada - Canada Sans Barriers June 2019 Newsletter Second Quarter

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-ks>

Photo Alt: Barrier Free Canada Logo. Image of a light blue maple leaf with a white diagonal section of the leaf missing, giving the appearance of a circle with a line through it that bans what is on the inside. This maple leaf is intended to ban inaccessibility. To the right of the light blue maple leaf are the words, 'Barrier Free Canada' and 'Canada sans barriers. Welcome to Barrier Free Canada.

Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations Have Been Published in the Canada Gazette, Part II

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-kw>

Photo Alt: Canada Gazette Logo. The text 'Canada' displays a small Canadian flag above the last letter of the word.

Canada's First Federal Accessibility Legislation Comes into Force

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-kz>

Photo Alt: Canada Gazette Logo. The text 'Canada' displays a small Canadian flag above the last letter of the word.

Ottawa Expands Air Passenger Rights as Airlines Push Back

Bumped Travelers to get up to \$2,400, Those with Lost or Damaged Luggage up to \$2,100

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-kL>

Photo Alt: Image. An Air Canada airliner sits on the tarmac with a bright red maple leaf emblazoned on its tail.

Toronto Pearson Announces it is Now Offering AIRA Service, A Leading-Edge Assistive Technology, to Help Travelers with Sight Loss Navigate the Airport Independently

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-kl>

Photo Alt: Image. Toronto Pearson airport. Inside shot.

Elections Canada Tele Town Hall Held June 6th 2019 A Success

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-kC>

Photo Alt: Image. Elections Canada logo. To the left a white maple leaf overlays a large black letter X. To the right a thick burgundy bar with an arrow points to the black X and white maple leaf. Underneath both is the text 'Elections Canada'.

Airlines' Legal Fight Against Passenger Bill of Rights Should Be Thrown Out of Court, AG Says

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-kT>

Photo Alt: Image. Six men with cameras shoot an airliner flying overhead.

Rallies and Events Held Around Ontario To Protest Legal Aid Cuts

Lives Are in The Balance, Says Director of Parkdale Community Legal Services

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-kX>

Photo Alt: Image. The Parkdale Community Legal Services march on the morning of July 30th 2019.

Events are being held province-wide in protest of the April 2019 budget's cut to Legal Aid Ontario.

August

**Accessibility App Receives Cash Injection to Help More Canadians  
With Disabilities Accessnow Will Receive \$2.7M From The Federal  
Government**

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-I1>

**Photo Alt: Image. 3 smart phones stand next to each other, each with a different screen shot of the AccessNow app displayed on their screen.**

**A Personal Perspective by Andrew Johnson, Consultant & Notary  
Public**

<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-lb>

**Photo Alt: Image. Close-up of a bronze Statue of Justice which focuses on a bright light in the center of the photo which shines directly upon the blindfold worn by Lady Justice.**

**Sharing My Hopes for the Accessible Canada Act**

**Contributed by Penny Leclair**

**<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-I8>**

**Photo Alt: Image. Silhouette of a woman kneeling in a meadow, her head down, fists on her forehead, with her guide dog sitting in front of her with his right paw on her arms, comforting her.**

**Canadian Transportation Agency Launches a New Confidential Toll-Free Accessibility Help Line at +1 (844) 943-0273**

**<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-I5>**

**Photo Alt: Image. Canadian Transportation Agency logo. A maple leaf to the right appears to have the pattern of a mechanical gear within it. To the left are the words Canadian Transportation Agency.**

**Bio pages for the BFC/CSB board**

**English:**

**<http://barrierfreecanada.org/about-us/>**

**French:**

**<http://barrierfreecanada.org/a-propos-de-nous/>**

**Disabled Passengers Say New Rules Present Some Greater Barriers to Air Travel**

**<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-lp>**

**Photo Alt: Image. Montreal - Tracy Odell recalls with a mix of pride and pain the sunny Spring day two years ago that her daughter got married in California.**

**Summary Report of the Elections Canada TeleTownHall Held June 6, 2019 by Canadian Council of the Blind and Sterling Creations**

**<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-ls>**

**Photo Alt: Image. The Canadian Council of the Blind logo sits above the Sterling Creations logo.**

October

**Diversity At Law Firms A Work In Progress, Analysis Finds  
Women Remain Underrepresented At Partnership Level, Data Shows**

**<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-lz>**

**Photo ALT: Image. Jennifer Gold, vice-president of the Women's Law Association of Ontario, says that while there is now greater diversity at the lower levels of the profession, firms have much work to do to improve diversity at the leadership level.**

**Silicon Valley's Motor City: As Big Tech Adds Fuel To A Housing Crisis, Poorer Residents Live In RVs**

**<https://wp.me/p5UIAU-IC>**

**Photo ALT: Image. Francisca Ramirez lives in an RV, shown in June on Shoreline Boulevard in Mountain View, Calif. She and her husband tried to find an apartment to rent in the**

**California town, which is home to Google's headquarters, but they settled on the RV after landlords asked for a large security deposit and the last month's rent up front.**

### ***Summary of News Items Posted to Our Website***

**The following is a list of news items that have been posted to our website from August to September.**

#### **PROVINCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:**

##### **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

<http://barrierfreebc.org/>

##### **ALBERTA**

Looking for good information about Alberta! Can anyone share.

##### **SASKATCHEWAN**

[www.barrierfreesaskatchewan.org](http://www.barrierfreesaskatchewan.org)

**The government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month to highlight the benefits of an inclusive work force that employs people with disabilities. Full news release found here:**

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2019/october/03/disability-employment-awareness-month>

A bit of a historic day in Saskatchewan as the last resident leaves Valley View Centre: #SKDisability

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2019/september/24/last-vv-resident-moves>

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2019/september/24/vlrs-programming>

## **ONTARIO**

[https://www.tmimd.com/aoda/?gVclid=EA1aIQobChMIk7OLurqX4wIVB9IkCh1-\\_gOEEAAYASAAEgIrrvD\\_BwE](https://www.tmimd.com/aoda/?gVclid=EA1aIQobChMIk7OLurqX4wIVB9IkCh1-_gOEEAAYASAAEgIrrvD_BwE)

## **QUEBEC**

<https://www.rbq.gouv.qc.ca/en/you-are/citizen/disabled-person/the-rbq-and-the-disabled-persons.html>

## **NEW BRUNSWICK**

[https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social\\_development/persons\\_disabilities/content/questions.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social_development/persons_disabilities/content/questions.html)

## **NOVA SCOTIA**

<https://mssociety.ca/support-services/programs-and-services/662/disability-support-program-government-of-nova-scotia>

## **NEWFOUNDLAND**

<https://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/personsdisabilities/>

## 2020 BRINGS AN ELECTION:

Here are some thought provoking topics for you to consider when election candidates come to your door. Be sure to ask the questions that affect you? The Accessible Canada Act was prompted to ensure the following questions were addressed. The ACA was supported unanimously and hence whichever party gets in will need to address the ACA's efforts, we need to ensure that the candidates in all parties are aware that we are watching out for this legislation to continue moving forward and the individuals with disabilities are staying engaged in this process.

## EMPLOYMENT

More than 35,000 Canadians with disabilities between the ages of 15 and 64 are unemployed, underemployed, or have given up their search for meaningful work due to no opportunities. It has been determined that 5% of people with disabilities in Canada earn minimum wage and work at least 20 hours per week.

## QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

What is your party's commitment to ensuring equity in employment and in outcomes for Canadians with disabilities within the government and the broader economy?

How will you ensure that Canadians with disabilities are actively and continuously promoted to the business community as valuable contributors to the workforce and economy?

## PUBLIC SERVICES:

Thousands of Canadians with disabilities and their families spend months, even years, in crisis while they wait for services that can help to significantly improve their quality of life. Delayed care results in significantly higher costs to taxpayers, as increased use of government services is required.

## QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

What will your party do to ensure the comprehensive reduction of wait times for disability services?

Will your party commit to implementing a transparent, accountable system to measure and publicly report on wait times for disability services? If yes, please provide details on how this will be accomplished within the next two years.

#### FULLY ACCESSIBLE CANADA

Canadians with disabilities have the basic human right to fully participate in all aspects of life in the community such as work, study, shopping, and recreation. However, people with disabilities continue to face serious obstacles that prevent full participation in parts of life that most Canadians take for granted.

#### QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATE:

How will your party ensure that the Accessible Canada Act is legislated towards full accessibility?

Will you commit to meaningful consultations with individuals with lived experience?

How will your party ensure the timely and comprehensive prevention and removal of barriers in facilities, building and structures will happen?

#### **Barrier Free Canada Executive:**

<b>Donna Jodhan</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Ontario</b>
<b>Anthony Tibbs</b>	<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>Quebec</b>
<b>Charlene Young</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Saskatchewan</b>
<b>Louise Gillis</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Nova Scotia</b>
<b>Brenda Edel</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Saskatchewan</b>
<b>Kevin Boutet</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Manitoba</b>

**Michelle Buckland      Director**

**Ontario**

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Brenda Edel and Charlene Young**