

Engaging people with disabilities

Steve Estey

Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunity

Outline

- Why does it matter?
- What has NSLEO done on the issue?
- What can Municipal Governments do?

Why does it matter?

- Demographics
 - 920,000 NS Population (2012)
 - 173,000 (18.8%) report having a disability
 - Impact on almost every household in the province

What has NSLEO done on issue?

- 2010 Canada Ratifies UNCRPD
 - To celebrate NSLEO hosts Conference on Participation in public & political life
 - 50 people with disabilities from across NS came together to talk with politicians and officials

Conference attendees identify following barriers

- Political literature is not easily accessible – it is not generally produced in alternate formats (Audio, Braille, ASL).
- Access to technical aids which would enable participation in voting and public engagement is extremely limited.
- Election officers do not tend to be well trained in procedures around proxy and independent voting for persons with disabilities.
- Physical accessibility is an issue at polling stations, political offices, venues for public/political events.
- Disability issues are not a campaign priority.

Key Recommendations:

- Modernization NS Elections Act
- Establish a provincial task force on issues
- Work with Elections Nova Scotia to develop a “voter’s toolkit” for persons with disabilities
- Explore possibility of a campaign school for persons with disabilities

Significant progress!

- 2012 NS Elections Act amendments
- 2013 MLA's offices must be accessible
- 2014 Offices of Speaker of Provincial Assembly & Halifax Mayor hosts conference on participation in public and political life
- 2015 ongoing discussions to ensure that campaign schools are accessible
- Disability debates in every election since 2010

What can Municipal Governments do?

- Establish Municipal advisory committee
- Ensure disability issues are on the agenda
- Access at public meetings & council meetings
- All of these things encourage engagement and voter turnout

TOWN HALL MEETING ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 9, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

**Dartmouth Sportsplex, Common Room
110 Wyse Road, Dartmouth**

To discuss and gather input on current projects relating to:

- Corporate facility design and construction
- Parks and recreation
- Traffic and transportation
- Winter Operations
- Accessible transit
- Municipal compliance
- 311 contact centres

Sighted guides, ASL interpretation, and CART service will be provided. For further information, contact Jennifer Weagle, 902.490.6517 or weaglej@halifax.ca



ELECTION 2015

ALL PARTY FORUM ON ACCESSIBILITY & DISABILITY



KEY TOPICS:



Poverty Elimination

Discussion about poverty elimination and anti-poverty strategies



Commitment to Sign & Ratify

the Optional Protocol of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities



Candidates with Disabilities

Party's record of seeking and nominating disabled candidates



Disability Tax Credit

Commit to establish a refundable disability tax credit



Accessible Housing

Commit to establish a national accessible housing strategy



Disabilities Act

Commit to establish a Canadian Disabilities Act



Assisted Dying

Discussion about assisted dying for those living with disabilities

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

7:00PM - 8:30PM

MARITIME MUSEUM OF THE ATLANTIC
1675 LOWER WATER STREET

Sighted Guides, ASL & CART services will be provided



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Disability Rights
Coalition of Nova Scotia





Canadians for a New Partnership, Treaty Education Nova Scotia and Engage Nova Scotia are pleased to invite you to a public forum on **building a renewed relationship between Aboriginal and all other Nova Scotians.**

The morning will include remarks by the **Right Honourable Paul Martin** and **AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde**. Lunch will be provided.

November 16th, 8:45 AM - 1:30 PM
Paul O'Regan Hall in the Halifax Central Library
5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax

We are endeavouring to ensure that this event is accessible to people with hearing, vision, or mobility issues. If you need assistance in any of these areas, please contact us.

Please RSVP by November 10th



CANADIENS POUR UN NOUVEAU PARTENARIAT
LES CANADIENS POUR UN NOUVEAU PARTENARIAT



Thank you

steven.estey@yahoo.ca