

# **Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability, Advocacy, and COVID-19**

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**Presenter**

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# Land Acknowledgement

- CILT would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.
- This territory is also covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.
- Today, the meeting place of Toronto (from the Haudenosaunee word Tkaronto) is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

# Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT)

- **CILT is a Resource Centre for people with disabilities by people with disabilities.** CILT Programs assist persons with disabilities **to take control** of their own lives and to **live independently** in the community.
- **CILT's Core Programs**
  - Information & Referral/Volunteer Program
  - Peer Support & Parenting with a Disability Network
  - Attendant Service Application Centre (ASAC)
  - Direct Funding Program
  - Independent Living Skills Training & Community Engagement

# Workshop Agenda

- Housekeeping 5 mins
- 5 Objectives of Webinar 55 mins
- Additional Resources 5 mins
- Questions & Answers 20-30 mins
- Evaluations will be sent to you by e-mail/mail

# Housekeeping

- We will be recording the Zoom presentation so we can share with people with disabilities and our allies
- Workshop is content heavy but meant to empower you with information, tools, and resources
- For privacy and time management, everyone will be muted and no video except for the hosts.
- If you have question/comment, please select Rebecca in the chat box and she will ask it
- If you need support, please select Robin in the chat box and she will assist you
- Be respectful of one another especially in chat or you will be removed from the webinar

# 5 Objectives of the Workshop

- Objective 1 – What is COVID-19? What are some of your disability issues and concerns around COVID-19?
- Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Nothing About Us Without Us, Independent Living Philosophy & Human Rights
- Objective 3 – What Is Advocacy and Different Types of Advocacy
- Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Process and Tools
- Objective 5 – Community Advocacy Campaigns and Resources

# Objective 1 – What is COVID-19?

- **COVID-19** is short for **CO**rona **V**irus **D**isease. The number 19 refers to the fact that the disease was first detected in 2019. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified COVID-19 as a pandemic.
- Some of COVID-19 most common symptoms are a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath.
- While COVID-19 can make anyone sick, **some Canadians** with specific health circumstances **are at an increased risk of more severe outcomes, including individuals:**
  - **aged 65 and over**
  - **with compromised immune systems**
  - **with underlying medical conditions**
- **Use the term COVID-19 for this presentation**

# **Objective 1 – What are Some Disability Issues & Concerns around COVID-19?**

## **General Topics / Concerns**

# Objective 1 – What are some Disability Issues & Concerns around COVID-19?

## General Topics / Concerns

- High Community Spread and Death in Long Term Care
- Discriminatory Hospital Triage Protocol
- Lack of at home COVID-19 Mobile Testing and Barriers to testing at Assessment Centres
- Restrictive Visitors Policies in Long Term Care and Hospital Admissions
- Accessing Personal Protective Equipment for People with Disabilities & Personal Support Workers (PSWs)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) & Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

# Objective 1 – What are some Disability Issues & Concerns around COVID-19?

## General Topics / Concerns

- Food Insecurity
- Assistive Devices Program (ADP)
- Education and lack of online accessibility and support for both teachers and students with disabilities
- Structural and Direct Violence
- Wheeltrans

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Nothing About Us Without Us, Independent Living Philosophy & Human Rights

- Nothing About Us Without Us
- Independent Living Philosophy
- **International:** United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) & S.19
- **Federal:** Canadian Charter of Rights, and S. 15
- Accessible Canada Act & **Creation of Canadian COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG)**
- **Canadian Human Rights Commission & Statement**
- **Provincial:** Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
- **Ontario Human Rights Commission & Statement**

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Nothing About Us Without Us

“Nothing About Us Without Us,” expresses the conviction that people with disabilities know what is best for us.

It matters because:

- people with disabilities must be front and center as visible leaders to share our voice and our experience.
- it reinforces the role of people without disabilities as allies and partners who share the road toward inclusion and equality.
- it unites us with all the marginalized and invisible individuals and groups who are demanding a seat at any decision making table about us.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Nothing About Us Without Us

“Nothing About Us Without Us,” includes disability justice principles such as

- **Intersectionality:** People with disabilities have intersectional identities, Indigenous Peoples, gender, class, race, and sexual orientations.
  - **“We do not live single issue lives” Audre Lorde**
- Commitment to **cross disability and cross grassroots movement** of marginalized groups and allies. We must build sustainable alliances so no one is left behind. Crip Camp documentary is example.
- Disability justice recognizes **wholeness of the person**. People have inherent worth outside of capitalist notions of productivity. Each person is full of history and life experience.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Independent Living Philosophy

- **“Nothing About Us Without Us”** is key Independent Living Philosophy principle that the **person with a disability is the best expert** regarding their needs.
- **Independent Living Philosophy** is founded on the right of persons with disabilities to:
  - **Live with dignity** in our chosen community;
  - **Participate** in all aspects of our lives; and
  - **Control and make decisions** about our lives.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: **International:** United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- “Nothing About Us Without Us,” was the rallying call for creation of the **United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.
- **UN CRPD** is an **international human rights instrument** that requires State Parties like Canada to promote, protect and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. **Canada ratified the CRPD in 2010.**

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: International: UN CRPD Optional Protocol

- On Dec 3, 2018, Canada ratified the **Optional Protocol** of CRPD. It establishes two procedures:
  - 1) The first is a **complaint procedure** that allows **individuals and groups** to take complaints to the **UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** in the case of an alleged violation of their rights under the Convention.
  - 2) The second is an **inquiry procedure** that allows **the Committee** to inquire into allegations of grave or systematic violations of the Convention by a country.

## **Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: International: UN CRPD S.19**

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community**

**Canada “recognizes the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices ... and shall take effective measures to facilitate ... full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that: ...**

**(b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;...”**

[http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convention\\_accessible\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convention_accessible_pdf.pdf)

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: **Federal:** Canadian Charter of Rights & Section 15

- **The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** sets out those rights and freedoms that Canadians believe are necessary in a free and democratic society.
- **The Charter** is one part of the **Canadian Constitution**. The Constitution is the **supreme law of Canada**; all other laws must be consistent with the rules set out in it. If they are not, they may not be valid.
- With regard to **Section 15 Equality Rights**, the Charter has led to the **recognition and enforcement of the rights** of a number of minority and disadvantaged groups **like persons with disabilities**.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Federal: Canadian Charter of Rights & Section 15

- **Section 15 Equality Rights** of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms **guarantees to people with disabilities the constitutional right to equality before and under the law, and to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination based on disability.**
- The Supreme Court of Canada made this obligation clear almost a quarter century ago in the landmark case of **Eldridge v. British Columbia**. It held that **governments have a strong duty to take into account and accommodate the needs of people with disabilities** when they **design and implement public programs, including, most notably, health care.**

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Federal: Accessible Canada Act (ACA)

- The **Accessible Canada Act (ACA)**, Bill C-81, came into force on July 11, 2019.
- The **ACA** establishes a **framework to create a barrier-free Canada through** the proactive identification, removal and prevention of accessibility barriers. It will also ensure that persons with disabilities are no longer required to fight barriers to accessibility on an individual basis.
- The **ACA applies to the federally regulated private sector**, which includes the banking, transportation and telecommunications sectors, as well as the **Government of Canada, Crown corporations and Parliament.**

## **Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Federal: Accessible Canada Act (ACA)**

- The Accessible Canada Act **established Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization (CASDO) Committee.**
- The CASDO Committee **has eight appointed members and the majority are persons with disabilities.**
- CASDO Committee will **develop accessibility standards** for the federal jurisdiction, in collaboration with industry and the disability community.

## **Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Federal: Creation of Canadian COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG)**

- In addition, **Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability**, announced the establishment of the **COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG) on April 10, 2020.**
- Minister Qualtrough said “During this time of public health and economic crisis, in the spirit of **“Nothing Without Us”** and the **Accessible Canada Act**, and in recognition of **Canada’s domestic and international human rights obligations**, the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that it considers, respects and incorporates the interests and needs of persons with disabilities into its decision-making and pandemic response.”

## **Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Federal: Creation of Canadian COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG)**

- The CDAG was created to advise Minister Qualtrough on the **real-time lived experiences of persons with disabilities during this crisis on disability-specific issues, challenges and systemic gaps and on strategies, measures and steps to be taken.**
- Co-chaired by Minister Qualtrough, the Advisory Group is comprised of **individual experts from the disability community**: Co-Chair: Al Etmanski, Bill Adair, Neil Belanger, Diane Bergeron, Bonnie Brayton, Krista Carr, Maureen Haan, Hélène Hébert, Dr. Heidi Janz, Rabia Khedr, Dr. Michael Prince.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Federal: Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC)

- The **Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC)** protects the core principle of equal opportunity and promotes a vision of an inclusive society free from discrimination by:
  - promoting human rights through research and policy development;
  - protecting human rights through a fair and effective complaints process;
  - representing the public interest to advance human rights for all Canadians; and
  - auditing employers under federal jurisdiction for compliance with employment equity.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Federal: CHRC Statement - Inequality amplified by COVID-19 crisis

Marie-Claude Landry, CHRC Chief Commissioner stated :

- “...as we emerge from this (COVID-19) crisis, **all governments must ensure that legislation, policies, services and programs** aimed at supporting Canadians and bringing our economy back to health **have human rights principles baked-in.** “
- “...we must all ensure that those **people living in vulnerable circumstances are front and centre in our minds and our actions**”.
- In developing response plans, governments must consider these issues, and the recommendations put forward by human rights experts and rights holders from Indigenous Peoples, Women and Children Fleeing Violence, LGBTQ2I Community, People in Housing Need or Facing Food Insecurity, Single parents, Children, and People in Correctional Institutions, **the Elderly, and People with Disabilities.**

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: **Provincial:** Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

- The ***Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)***, purpose is to improve accessibility standards for people with disabilities to all government, businesses, non-profits and public sector organizations in Ontario.
- By 2015, five accessibility standards were established as regulations to help organizations identify and remove barriers to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. The standards are to be implemented over time with goal of full implementation by 2025. The standards are Customer Service, Employment, Information and Communications, Transportation, and Design of Public Spaces.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Provincial: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

- However, the disability consumer advocacy group AODA Alliance reports there have been **over 481 days** since the Ontario Government received **Independent Review of the Implementation of the AODA** by former Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley.
- The Government has announced no comprehensive plan to implement that report which during the COVID-19 crisis the serious problems facing Ontarians with disabilities have been made worse.

## **Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Provincial: Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC)**

- The **Ontario Human Rights System** is made up of three separate agencies:
  - The **Ontario Human Rights Commission** works to promote, protect and advance human rights through research, education, targeted legal action and policy development.
  - The **Human Rights Legal Support Centre** gives **legal help** to people who have experienced discrimination under the *Code*.
  - The **Human Rights Tribunal** is where **human rights applications** are filed and decided.

## Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Provincial: **Ontario Human Rights Commission's (OHRC) Policy on Equal Rights During the COVID-19**

The **OHRC's Policy statement** on a human rights-based approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic calls on governments to:

- Approach preventing and treating COVID-19 as a human rights obligation
- Respect the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit (Indigenous) peoples
- Set strict limits on measures that infringe on rights
- **Protect vulnerable groups like people with disabilities**
- **Respond to racism, ageism, ableism and other forms of discrimination**
- Strengthen human rights accountability and oversight.

## **Objective 2 – Social Justice Framework: Impact of COVID-19 on People with Disabilities**

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of the **medical model approach has grown in the health care system**, with people with disabilities being increasingly treated as sick and as objects of health intervention or **deprioritization**, or as a burden to ourselves and our families. We are seeing an **erosion of the Independent Living Philosophy/Model**.
- COVID-19 has increased **social and economic inequalities for people with disabilities**, seniors and marginalized groups.
- Disabled people are often placed at society's margins and stand to be the **most impacted by COVID-19 but we are usually the last to be heard**. **We must come together to highlight, amplify and advocate our human rights!**

## Objective 3 – What is Advocacy?

- Advocacy is about speaking up for yourself.
- Advocacy is a way for you to change a negative situation that affects you.



# Objective 3 – Types of Advocacy

- **Systemic Advocacy**  
Working as group to change an issue. Example: AODA Alliance and ODSP Action Coalition
- **Individual Advocacy**  
Advocating “with” another person. We may need someone to help us solve our problem (e.g. social worker)
- **Self-Advocacy**  
Advocating on your own behalf. Example: You writing an email or letter, or making phone calls or meeting with person you are having a problem with

# Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

## The 4 SELF- ADVOCACY STEPS:

- **STEP 1: PREPARE**
- **STEP 2: PLAN**
- **STEP 3: ACT**
- **STEP 4: EVALUATE**

## Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

### STEP 1 PREPARE: List your key issue(s)

- List all your key issues;
  - Examples: Disability Concerns
- Choose and prioritize your KEY issue.



*(Advocacy the process: A Resource in Support of Canadians with a Disability.  
The Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability)*

# Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

## STEP 1 PREPARE: Gather information

- Write down your issue and what happened, when it happened and with who
- Next write down **how your issue has a negative impact on you**

*(Advocacy the process: A Resource in Support of Canadians with a Disability.  
The Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability)*

# Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

## STEP 1 PREPARE: Find support

- Ask for help from
  - Family,
  - Friends,
  - Social Worker,
  - Non-Profit Disability Organizations like CILT, Community Living Toronto,
  - Grass Roots Community Organizations like CWD-O, AODA Alliance, ODSP Action Coalition, Disability Justice Network of Ontario (DJNO)
  - Legal Clinics like ARCH Disability Law Centre.

## Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

### STEP 2 PLAN: Choose Your Best Solutions

- Think and choose your best solution(s).
- Be as specific as possible.

*Advocacy the process: A Resource in Support of Canadians with a Disability.  
(The Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability)*

# Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools

## STEP 2 PLAN:

### **Brainstorm & Choose the Best Self-Advocacy Tools**

- Create a good open ended question
- Have an effective meeting (with Manager or local, provincial, federal politician)
- Create a good e-mail/letter/open letter
- Effectively use Social Media like Twitter and Facebook
- Effectively work with News Media
- Create a good petition

## Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Create a Good Open-Ended Question

- **Good questions are open-ended.** They are designed to encourage a full, meaningful answer. Can be effectively used in (virtual) Town hall meeting/workshop/forum and Twitter.
- **Open-ended Question Template**
  - Begin with useful facts and information. Know your material.
  - Ask your question about a topic that matters to you.
  - Open-ended questions begin with: **What, Why, How, Describe, "Tell me about..."**
  - Keep it short. Be as concise as possible, it makes your question clearer. Questions should not be longer than 60 seconds in a Town hall or 280 characters on Twitter. Keeping your question short allows others to ask questions.

# ● Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Have an Effective Meeting

- *Setting up a Meeting*
  - **Call the person** (Manager/Politician) you wish to speak to. **Give the reason** that you'd like to meet with them. Ask when they will be **available to meet with you**.
  - You may work alone or with support person.
- *At the Meeting*
  - **Present your case** in a clear and concise way, stating the exact nature of your concern and precisely what you want the Service Provider to do about it.
  - Focus on **one or two issues**.
  - Insist on a **straight answer** to your questions.

# ● Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Have an Effective Meeting

## ● *At the Meeting*

- If the Manager/Politician agrees with you, **get it in writing and a timeline to put the solutions in place.**
- **Have a calm and respectful dialogue.** Show that you are willing to work with them.
- Even if the Manager/Politician disagrees with you, **thank them** for the time and opportunity to meet.

## ● *After the Meeting*

- **Follow up letter/email.** Write a letter/email **thanking** the Manager/Politician for meeting with you. In your letter, **summarize** any commitments that were made, and **ask for an update** on what has been done.
- **Keep your allies informed and thank them too.**

# Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Create a Good E-mail/Letter/Open Letter

- A good personal letter/email can go a long way in solving your issues. Whether you are writing as a part of a letter-writing campaign or on your own, the following guidelines will help you know how to write an advocacy letter.
- **Style**
  - A personal letter is much more effective than a form letter, so try to **put it in your own words**.
  - An **email** is just as effective as a letter by post, (Remember to include your postal mailing address if you write an email.)
  - Emphasize **two or three** major points and keep to the same topic.
  - Try to keep the letter to **one page**. Do not exceed two pages.

# Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Create a Good E-mail/Letter/Open Letter

- **Contents**
  - Give a brief introduction **outlining your concerns**.
  - Describe the **impact the issue** has had on you.
  - **Give solutions** and /or ask for a **commitment** to a specific action
  - **Thank the person** for any past positive actions they have taken.
  - Request that they **respond** to your letter.
  - **Carbon Copy (CC): Share your letter** with other individuals and organizations who are also advocating for your cause.
  - **Other Tips: Keep a copy** of the letter you send. You can refer back to it when you receive a response.
  - **Follow up** . Write back to the person, thanking them for their response, and remind them of your requests and any commitments they have made.

## Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Effectively use Social Media like Twitter

- **Twitter is the great democratizer.** It can connect you directly with allies, reporters, politicians right away, and can help you reach a lot of people—it's the only major social media platform that allows you that kind of direct access to key influencers.
- Twitter messages or Tweets are limited to 280 characters.
- Twitter can be used to: 1) Find, Organize and Follow allies 2) Share Tweets and allow them to be amplified by others 3) Learn about breaking news, events, and advocacy campaigns 4) Contact reporters others in media and 5) Contact politicians.
- An @ sign is when you include somebody's @twittername in the tweet
- Hashtags (#). Hashtags denote interest areas. Examples are: **#NothingWithoutUs #COVID19 #DisabilityUrgent #NotJustAVisitor**. Hashtags change all the time. The purpose of a hashtag is that Twitter users use them to search for tweets and people.

## Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Effectively use Social Media like Facebook

- Facebook is best for connecting with people you already know, for organizing and sharing with affinity groups.
- Facebook is great for visibility. If your goal is to engage a larger audience to take action, or mobilize your grassroots to bring an issue in front of politicians.
- In order for that to happen you need to the following:
  - Building a network of allies and organizations;
  - Share or create engaging information and campaigns with your network;
  - Take Action – empower others, enable them, and cultivate a movement, open letter, petition, group meetings or forums;
  - You want your Facebook page posts and comments to be positive and constructive.

## Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Effectively Work with News Media

- It's important to know how to approach the media and how to get your voice heard through newspapers, television, & radio.
- It can **increase public awareness** about your issue and can also catch the attention of **elected officials**.

### *How to approach the media*

- You should approach **newspapers first** because TV and radio journalists often get their stories from the newspaper. They are also able to go more in-depth on a topic.
- Approach newspapers on **Sunday** or **Thursday** as Mondays and Fridays are generally slow news days.
- The best way to approach a journalist is to **write a to-the-point email** and **follow up with a phone call**. Show the reporter that you are not trying to sell them on your view, but trying to help them do their job by providing useful information and an interesting story.

## Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to effectively work with News Media

### *What to do when the media contacts you for an interview*

- **Write down** the name of the publication and the name of the journalist. Ask them questions about the focus of the story, who else will be interviewed, etc.
- **Be prepared** with statistics and examples.
- Keep in mind the **key messages** of your campaign so that you do not get off track. Keep control of the interview by returning to them often.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, say so and **offer to get back** to the journalist promptly.

## Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to effectively work with News Media

- **Other Tips**
- Remember that the press is “**not always with us.**” They just want good stories and to cover the news.
- **Be absolutely accurate.** Provide key information in writing: names, titles, phone numbers, sum up important points.
- **Tell a story (beginning, middle, and end),** conflict, timelines, who-what-where-when-why. Practice simplifying your message.
- **Return phone calls from reporters promptly—tomorrow is too late.**
- **Be patient and polite.** Reporters are always in a hurry. There’s never enough time to do all the stories and depends on what else is going on.

# Objective 4 – Self-Advocacy Tools: How to Create a Good Petition

- A petition is a good tool for a straightforward issue that can gain widespread support.
- Each level of government have specific guidelines for submitting petitions and each have sample templates.

## General guidelines for writing a petition

- The petition statement should be **clear** and **concise**.
- Begin the statement with a phrase like: “*We the undersigned hereby affirm. . .*”
- Keep it as short as possible, while laying out your concerns.
- Start with general principles and progressively get more specific, ending with your requests.
- Make sure that the **petition statement appears on each page** of the petition.

## Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

### STEP 3 ACT: Follow-Through

- Work and **complete your tool and send it;**
- Make sure to **set a time frame** for people to reply back to you or **for you to follow up;**
- **Keep a Record** of your Actions;
- **Keep your Supporters informed.**

*(Advocacy the process: A Resource in Support of Canadians with a Disability.  
The Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability)*

# Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

## STEP 3 ACT: Tips for Effective Self-Advocacy

- Advocating Assertively with Respect, Honesty, Focus more on your needs and solutions;
- Humanize the Your Issue with personal story how unique, valid and urgent your situation is and its impact on you;
- Be Willing to Compromise; Finding common ground solutions that can create good results for you and everyone.

# Objective 4 – The 4 Self-Advocacy Steps:

## STEP 4: EVALUATE

- Evaluate your action plan. Ask yourself, have any **positive changes** occur after you followed through with your tool?
- **If your issue is still not fixed**, go back to Step 2 Plan, Step 3 Act, and Step 4 Evaluate and **try going up the management ladder** to 1. Program Manager; 2. Executive Director; 3. Board of Directors 4. Funders.
- **If this does not work**, you may approach politicians, media, legal clinics, or depending on your issue Ontario or Canadian Human Rights Commission.
- **Thank supporters** who help you bring about positive change.

# **Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Campaigns**

- **What are some Community Advocacy Campaigns and Resources?**

## Objective 5 -

# Community Advocacy Campaigns

- **ARCH Advocacy Toolkit – Advocating for Your Support Person, Attendant or Communication Assistant to be with You in Hospital During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **<http://archdisabilitylaw.ca/resource/advocating-for-your-support-person-or-attendant-to-be-with-you-in-hospital-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>**
- **ARCH Bulletin on COVID-19: Ontario Health’s Clinical Triage Protocol for Major Surge in COVID Pandemic**
- **<http://archdisabilitylaw.ca/resource/arch-bulletin-on-covid-19-ontario-health-clinical-triage-protocol/>**

# Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Campaigns

- **AODA Alliance Campaign and Issues**
- **<https://www.aoda.ca/pressing-need-for-the-ford-government-to-ensure-that-hospital-patients-with-communication-disabilities-face-no-barriers-to-using-technology-that-lets-them-effectively-communicate/>**
- **Autistics for Autistics Ontario (A4A) Petition Protect patient rights to AAC in Canadian hospitals!**
- **[https://www.change.org/p/public-health-agency-of-canada-create-protocols-for-aac-access-in-hospitals?recruited\\_by\\_id=fcf4a080-bf47-012f-59a7-4040f855b16c](https://www.change.org/p/public-health-agency-of-canada-create-protocols-for-aac-access-in-hospitals?recruited_by_id=fcf4a080-bf47-012f-59a7-4040f855b16c)**

# Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Campaigns

- **Basic Income Petition, Initiated by Chris Alemany from Port Alberni, British Columbia, will be tabled by Gord Johns, MP, Courtenay—Alberni, New Democratic Party Caucus, British Columbia. The closing date for signatures is 6 June, 2020.**
- **<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2577>**
- **Disability Justice Network of Ontario's petition regarding ADP:**
- **<https://www.djno.ca/post/petition-to-reform-the-assistive-devices-program-in-ontario>**

# Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Campaigns

- Family Alliance Ontario's Open Letter to all levels of government to amend "essential visitor" policy to include essential support person(s) in Ontario.
- <https://family-alliance.com/equitable-access/>
- Include Me (Canadian cross disability committee) provides Information, Rights & Advocacy, Open Letters: Federal , Provincial and Territory governments determine how to provide needed, financial assistance to people on disability supports and to families with members with disabilities
- <https://www.include-me.ca/covid-19/action/provide-financial-aid-people-disabilities-now>

## Objective 5 -

# Community Advocacy Resources

- ARCH 's COVID-19 and Disability: Recommendations to the Canadian Government from Disability Related Organizations in Canada – March 24, 2020 <https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/covid-19-and-disability-recommendations-to-the-canadian-government-from-disability-related-organizations-in-canada-march-24-2020/>
- ARCH's "COVID-19 Related Resources and Updates"
- <https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/covid/>
- ARCH Factsheet – The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol
- <https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/resource/factsheet-the-crpd-and-the-optional-protocol/>

# Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Resources

- **Autistics for Autistics Ontario (A4A) Resources**
- **<https://a4aontario.com/>**
  
- **Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL): Plain language guides for self-advocates and their support staff.**
- **<https://cacl.ca/coviddisability/>**
  
- **Centre for Independent Living Toronto - Information and Resources List related to COVID-19 <https://www.cilt.ca/cilt-resources/information-and-resources-list-related-to-covid-19>**

# Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Resources

- **Citizens with Disabilities Ontario (CWDO) Webinars and Resources COVID-19 -Information for People with Disabilities on the Corona-19 virus <http://www.cwdo.org/node/640>**
- **Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA) COVID-19 Resources <https://www.equalityrights.org/covid19>**
- **CareMongering-TO: TO Community Response to COVID19**
- **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TO.Community.Response.COVID19/>**
- **Ontario Disability Support Program COVID-19 key information**
- **<https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/odsp/odsp-covid-fact-sheets.aspx>**

# Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Resources

- **My COVID Disability Q.: Canada's New Q&A Hub for Canadians with Disabilities — CHILD-BRIGHT Network**  
**<https://www.child-bright.ca/new-blog/2020/5/11/mycovidq>**
- **COVID-19 Deaf and Disability Community Resources (Toronto Area) <https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/health-and-wellness/covid-19-deaf-and-disability-community-resources.html>**
- **Demanding Disability Rights Amid COVID-19. The Agenda <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmMITrNbud8&feature=youtu.be>**

# Objective 5 - Community Advocacy Resources

- **Disability Justice Network of Ontario's COVID-19 Resources: Financial Supports & Other Essential Services.**
- **[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_42FL\\_qg2-orYmiiOK6RY9O0TXM6GbNOXPnoZsRD5HY/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_42FL_qg2-orYmiiOK6RY9O0TXM6GbNOXPnoZsRD5HY/edit)**
- **Disability Justice & COVID-19 Webinar**
- **[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc815L0t7jk4sx1knQqc7N2CXyg1X6uLqmfK1e3Ba1qmoGk\\_A/closedform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc815L0t7jk4sx1knQqc7N2CXyg1X6uLqmfK1e3Ba1qmoGk_A/closedform)**
- **Disability Rights Monitor COVID-19 <https://www.covid-drm.org/>**
- **Steps to Justice income assistance during COVID-19**
- **<https://stepstojustice.ca/legal-topic/income-assistance/covid-19>**

## Objective 5 – Some Advocacy Victories

- Ontario government states Triage Protocol is draft and will seek to get community consultation
- Ontario government partial claw back of CERB on ODSP
- Ontario government resumes Assistive Devices Program
- British Columbia Government changes “No Visitor” policy for people with disabilities in Long Term Care and Hospitals

# Questions and Answers

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# **Additional Resources, Thank You and Evaluations**

- **Additional Resources**
- **Thank you for your time & participation**
- **Evaluations**

# CILT Contact Information:

**If you have any additional questions, comments or concerns, please contact:**

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