



Canadian Association
for Community Living

Association canadienne pour
l'intégration communautaire

Diversity includes. On se ressemble.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORIC MOMENT FOR CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TABLES THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Parliament Hill, Ottawa, ON - December 3, 2009 – Today as the world celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Minister Peter Mackay on behalf of the government of Canada tabled the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Through this act our government has indicated its intention to move toward formal ratification of the CRPD. In taking this step the Government of Canada confirms their commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities in this country.

“This is truly a historic moment for Canada and for Canadian citizens with disabilities in that the ratification of the CRPD is one more mechanism to entrench and actualize the rights of persons with disabilities”, said Bendina Miller, President of the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL). “We applaud the leadership demonstrated by the Government of Canada in the development and signing of this convention, and now today in taking this final step toward its ratification.”

“Canada can take great pride in the role it played in the development of the convention”, said Anna MacQuarrie, Director, Policy & Programs, CACL, “and we are most pleased that the Government of Canada has now officially indicated its intention to ratify this important international treaty. We expect and indeed look forward to full party support for ratification.”

“Today, International Day of Persons with Disabilities has special meaning for all Canadians. Today, Canada takes another step in advancing and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities to be full and participating Canadian citizens” said Bendina Miller. “As an Association that represents people with intellectual disabilities and their families and on behalf of our more than 40,000 members, not only do we support timely ratification of the CRPD, we stand prepared to assist the Government in implementation of the convention once ratified.”

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About the Canadian Association for Community Living

The Canadian Association for Community Living is a Canada-wide association of family members and others working to advance the human rights and inclusion of persons of all ages who have an intellectual disability.

Founded in 1958 by parents of children with intellectual disabilities who wanted supports and services within the community instead of in institutions, CACL has become one of Canada's ten largest charitable organizations, and has grown into a federation of 10 provincial and three territorial associations comprising of 420 local associations and over 40,000 members.

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