



**Coalition of Persons  
with Disabilities**

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Newfoundland and Labrador

**Disability and  
the Demographic Tsunami**



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# Our Mandate

COD-NL is a non-profit, charitable organization. We were formed in 1983. COD-NL has a cross-disability perspective and a mandate to:

- i. **Educate** people by changing attitudes concerning the rights of persons with disabilities;
- ii. **Influence** regulations, laws, and actions at all levels of government to ensure that all persons with disabilities have opportunity to participate fully in society;
- ii. **Involve** members and all persons with disabilities in influencing change.



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## Our Work

- Disability Awareness Training
- Network of Disability Organizations
  - Concept/policy response papers
- Blue Zone Audits
- Advance Health Care Directives
- Committees (ex: Husky Energy Diversity)
- Post-Secondary Scholarship Program for high school students with disabilities
- Emergency Preparedness



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# **Why this Work is Important?**



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## Statistics

- 1 in 7 Canadians has a disability (StatsCan)
- Three-quarters of Canadians report to personally know someone with a disability, in most cases a family member or friend.
- Approximately, 75 000 individuals with disabilities in our province
- Estimated that 20% of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador will be over age 65 by 2017 & more than 45% will be over age 50.

(Social Development Canada: Canadian Attitudes towards disability issues 2004 Benchmark Survey, Provincial Inclusion Strategy, Provincial Healthy Aging Framework)



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## Who do we mean?

Cross disability - all types of disabilities:

- Intellectual/ Developmental
- Mental Health
- Non-Visible
- Physical
- Sensory (Hearing and Vision)



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# Initiatives



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# Emergency Preparedness – A Shared Responsibility







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## Resource Materials

- To support emergency preparedness processes to be inclusive of persons with disabilities and disability-related accommodations
- Training materials, sessions & presentations for:
  - emergency planners and first responders
  - persons with disabilities



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## **An Inclusive Planning Guide**

### **Principles to Guide your Planning**

- Have a Positive Attitude
- Involve Persons with Disabilities
- Show Dignity, Respect and Fairness



# An Inclusive Planning Guide

## Things to Include in your Planning

- Supporting Communication
- Maintaining Disability Related Supports
  - Assistive Devices and Technology
  - Medication and Medical Equipment
  - Personal Supports
  - Service Animals
- Ensuring Accessibility
  - Transportation
  - Built Environment



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# Respectful Language

- Language shapes how we perceive things to be
- Consider the person first and focus on what they can do
- ...and positive perceptions will follow.

“Words with Dignity”



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## Communication is the Key

- Speak directly to the person
- Provide information in alternate formats
- Use language that is respectful
- **ATP**... Ask the person
  - Have patience
  - Listen carefully
  - Respect person's wishes



# Supports & Accessibility

- Alternate formats
- Adaptive equipment
- Service Animals
- Personal supports
- Medications
- Accessible transportation
- Accessible reception sites



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# PREP Kit



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- For persons with disabilities
- Complete forms and add in any additional info
- Responders be aware to look for kit on the refrigerator
- Can get kit by contacting our office

# Blue Zone Initiative



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- Encourages community partners such as, municipalities, community-based organizations, businesses, service organizations, construction industry as well as persons with disabilities to work together to make communities more accessible







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## Why are Blue Zones Important

Ensure access by providing parking that is close to entrances of public locations for persons with disabilities affecting mobility.

Awareness:

- Brochure on requirements and best practices of blue zone spaces
- Permit holder responsibilities





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# What works?



# What doesn't?



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“back in a second”



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# Never Assume



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## Contact Info

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