



Backgrounder

August 28, 2008

What is the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities?

The Coalition for Persons with Disabilities - Peel, Halton and Dufferin - is a community based partnership of persons with disabilities, groups, agencies, employers, educators, labour, government representatives and others interested in working collaboratively to effect positive changes for persons with disabilities.

The Coalition has been in operation since 1985. It was established in order to avoid duplication of services and to foster cooperation, trust and collaboration to meet the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. This partnership has allowed members to ensure that needs of individuals with disabilities are recognized.

The Coalition is a non-profit organization that advocates in the areas of accessibility, transportation, health, social and recreation, housing, employment, education and training.

Projects of the Coalition are funded, in whole or in part by the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario.

What has the Coalition accomplished?

The Coalition is an umbrella organization that provides Community and Employment programs.

Employment Programs

- Founded Employment Access, an employment service dedicated to providing job counselling and job development to persons with disabilities. Over the past decade, the Coalition assisted more than 4500 people obtain competitive employment in today's labour market, aided in minimizing employment barriers and facilitated access to government funding. Offices are located in Mississauga and Brampton. Mirror services are offered for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients.
- Established the Practice Firm, Sign of the Times, the first Practice Firm in North America dedicated to assisting persons with disabilities. It is a virtual company that provides real-life employment experience to unemployed, yet qualified individuals who are looking to enter or re-enter the job market. It is part of a worldwide network of over 5500 Practice Firms.
- Developed a Work Readiness Skills program designed to develop employability skills that accommodate individualized learning styles and disability-related needs. The website offers online learning modules and an interactive community map that pinpoints locations offering employment supports and public access to computers for job searching.

Community Programs

- Connections Resource Fair is an annual exhibit held in partnership with Erinoak Children's Treatment Centre that brings together over 50 exhibitors who provide products and services to persons with disabilities.
- Awareness Workshops are offered to business, government and educational institutions that are designed to promote the integration of persons with disabilities within our society. Additionally, in partnership with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Trillium Health Centre, Ontario March of Dimes, Erinoak, five other agencies, the Coalition offers workshops that target women with a physical disability, on issues such as Community Resources, Employment, Self-defense, Women and Health, Leadership Skills and more.
- Customer Service Workshops helps organizations understand the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act and provides the customer service training required under the Act. Participants learn about interacting with people with various types of disabilities. Instruction on assistive devices, service animals and support persons as well as how to assist individuals having difficulty accessing your organization's services.

What does the Coalition do?

- Advocates with all levels of government to improve policies and attitudes that affect people with disabilities.
- Promotes public awareness of disability issues through conferences, special projects and the media.
- Provides individual and group advocacy for people with disabilities
- Serves on government panels and committees.
- Shares information and self-help skills with people with disabilities and disability organizations.

Where is the Coalition located?

The Coalition is located at:

10 Kingsbridge Garden Circle, Suite 403

Mississauga, ON L5R 3K6

For further information, please contact Matthew Fleet:

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