

## Accessibility Matters: Physical Barriers & Safety

### People with disabilities and violence:

People with disabilities, especially women, are statistically at a greater risk of violence. This has been linked to the fact that people with disabilities are often stereotyped in ways that reduces their independence and isolates them. This form of stereotyping is a safety risk as it makes people with disabilities more vulnerable to violence, neglect and exploitation.

### Solutions:

#### Assaulted Women's Helpline (Toll Free: 1-866-863-0511)

Talk for Healing (for indigenous women 1-855-554-4325)  
Victimlink BC at 1-800-563-0808  
Archway Society 24/7 Help Line: 250-542-1122

### FACTS:

#### Physical Barriers:

Physical or architectural barriers are any elements in the environment that make it difficult or impossible for people with disabilities to access a space or service. Examples are stairs, poor lighting or narrow entryways.

If you encounter a physical barrier that prevents you from accessing a place or service, there are several different agencies to contact depending on the type of issue you are experiencing, such as the Canadian Transportation Agency or the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. If you are unsure about who to contact and what your rights are you can contact

#### Advocacy Access at Disability Alliance BC.

There are several options to find and use more accessible services such as:

**HandyDART:** Is a door to door service for people with permanent or temporary disabilities. This service ensures that people are picked up and dropped off at accessible locations. To register for handyDart services, their application form needs to be filled out. To check if any transit stop is accessible, call your local transit office.

There are also cell phone apps that focus particularly on accessibility such as **Wheelmate** and **Help Talk** that help with finding wheelchair accessible places, toilet facilities and parking spaces.

**Safety:** The Government of Canada and DABC have published Emergency Preparedness Guides for People with Disabilities. These guides help you stay safe in an emergency situation by providing tips around support networks, emergency kits, and how people with disabilities or special needs can be effectively assisted during an emergency.

**Text with 9-1-1** is an emergency response service available to the deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech impaired community in Canada. To register: [www.textwith911.ca](http://www.textwith911.ca)

### Solutions:

#### Accessibility:

**Okanagan Accessibility**-provides 'Okanagan Accessibility' stickers to businesses who have made efforts to improve accessibility for people with various disabilities. Contact: [okanagan.accessibility@gmail.com](mailto:okanagan.accessibility@gmail.com)

**Canadian Transportation Agency**, accessibility complaints: Call

**The Disability Alliance BC Advocacy Access Hotline** 1-800-663-1278

**Handy Dart** application Phone: 250-727-7811 or at [www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com)

**Vernon local transit** office number is 250-549-1366.

**Canadian Radio-television & Telecom. Commission accessible phone services** [www.crtc.gc.ca](http://www.crtc.gc.ca)

Okanagan Advocacy and Resource Society call 250 542-3555 ext. 209

#### Safety:

**Crisis Line BC** call toll free: 1 888-353-2273

**DisAbled Women's Network of Canada** information and statistics

**Emergency Preparedness Guide** for People with Disabilities on the Disability Alliance BC website at <http://disabilityalliancebc.org/> and at