For immediate release

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Disability Community presents the Liberal Government with Mandate Letters and a Speech from the Throne focusing on the most pressing issues for persons with disabilities in Canada

**Toronto, ON** – A coalition of over 25 disability organizations delivered the new Liberal Government recommendations for the most pressing issues that persons with disabilities are facing. The recommendations are included in a drafted Throne Speech for the 44th Parliament of Canada to showcase an inclusive and accessible Canada. As well, the recommendations are incorporated in draft Mandate Letters which the Prime Minister routinely issues at the outset of a Cabinet Minister’s term.

This is the first time the coalition has written recommendations for the Throne Speech and Mandate letters.

“Canadians with disabilities are far too often an afterthought of politicians and government, during the last federal election we were pleased that many of the political parties included disability issues within their election platforms,” said Christopher T. Sutton, CEO Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility. “We were inspired to push the envelope - to show what could be possible by writing an inclusive Throne Speech and Mandate letters.”

Mr. Sutton stated that accessibility, disability rights, and full inclusion are a shared responsibility, and must be evident in the Throne Speech and in every Cabinet Minister’s mandate, not just one Minister responsible for disability inclusion.

“The Speech from the Throne is where the Queen's representative outlines the government's agenda for Parliament. Throughout history, persons with disabilities have been absent from these speeches. This is our “what if?” – what if our Government really stepped up and centered disability in their vision for a better Canada" said Krista Carr, Executive Vice-President of Inclusion Canada.

The pan-Canadian Disability Coalition urges the government to prioritize items such as: the national housing strategy, the national action plan to address gender-based violence, the national childcare, the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and the Canada

Disability Benefit, which benefits all Canadians during the recovery of the pandemic and beyond.

When disability rights are achieved, and barriers faced by people with disabilities are resolved, everyone benefits. The pan-Canadian Disability Coalition urges all Canadians to explore the materials and to call on Government to act.

Download the [Mandate Letter here](https://www.ccrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-11-17-pan-Canadian-Disability-Coalition-Letter-to-Prime-Minister-Trudeau-EN.pdf) and [Speech from the Throne here](https://www.ccrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/What-if_-The-most-Disability-Centred-Speech-from-the-Throne-in-Canadas-....pdf).

**About the pan-Canadian Disability Coalition**

The pan-Canadian Disability Coalition is a coalition of over 25 disability organizations across Canada. Its mission is to ensure that attitudes, policies, services, and programs in all areas of Canadian society are barrier free and welcome participation by everyone living in Canada. This mission is to be achieved by working together to ensure that all Canadian policies, services, and programs are designed, implemented, and evaluated using a disability/ accessibility lens.

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**List of pan-Canadian Disability Coalition members:**

Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians

Barrier Free Canada

British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society

Canadian Association of the Deaf

Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance

Canadian Council Rehabilitation Work

Canadian DeafBlind Association

Canadian Disability Participation Project

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association

Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Communication Disabilities Access Canada

Council of Canadians with Disabilities

Community Living Toronto

Deaf Culture Center

Deaf Literacy Initiative

Disabled Women’s Network Canada

Easter Seals Canada

Environmental Health Association of Québec

Eviance

Inclusion Canada

Independent Living Canada

L’Arche Canada

March of Dimes Canada

Muscular Dystrophy Canada

National Network for Mental Health

Plan Institute

Realize

Rick Hansen Foundation

Spinal Cord Injury Canada

Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility

Liste des membres de la coalition :

Accès Troubles de la Communication Canada

Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians

Association canadienne de la surdicécité

Association canadienne des troubles du spectre autistique

Association des malentendants canadiens

Association des Sourds du Canada

Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec

British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society

Canada sans barriers

Centre de cultures des sourds

Conseil Canadien de la Réadaptation et du Travail

Conseil des Canadiens avec déficiences

Community Living Toronto

Deaf Literacy Initiative

Dystrophie musculaire Canada

Eviance

Fondation Rick Hansen

Inclusion Canada

Institut national canadien pour les aveugles

L’Arche Canada

La marche des dix sous du Canada

Lésions médullaires Canada

Plan Institute

Projet canadien sur la participation sociale des personnes en situation de handicap

Réalise

Réseau d’action des femmes handicapées

Réseau national pour la santé mentale

Timbre de Pâques Canada

Vie autonome Canada

Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility