



Canada

Disability Awareness Tips



**ACTIVE
LIVING
ALLIANCE**

FOR CANADIANS
WITH A DISABILITY

**ALLIANCE
DE VIE
ACTIVE**

POUR LES CANADIENS/
CANADIENNES AYANT
UN HANDICAP

Promoting a new perspective on disability
Voir au-delà du handicap



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Overview

Disability Awareness Tips

- This presentation will help to educate those looking to hone their communication skills with regards to persons with disabilities.

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Labels & Untruths

We don't have people with disabilities in our community"

"disabled person"

"Retard"

"special"

"He's such an inspiration"

"What does he want?"

"Cripple"



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Assumptions We Wear

Fears, language and assumptions need to be considered when supporting people with disabilities



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Disability Etiquette

- Always put the person before the disability!
- It is important to say...
- “he/she uses a wheel chair” not “confined to a wheelchair”
- “a person who has epilepsy” not “an epileptic”.

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Disability Etiquette

2. Use the term “person with a disability”.

“Disability” means that an individual is limited in one’s ability to do an activity. “Handicap” is a barrier that limits a person’s opportunity to participate in society.



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Disability Etiquette

3. Offer people with disabilities the same choices as you would anyone else. People with visible and invisible disabilities have the right to fully participate in the community.



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4. All people are unique. Individuals all have unique things they can and cannot do.



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5. Offer assistance when it appears to be required, but do not insist on helping if the individual refuses your offer.



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6. Consider barriers that make it difficult for people to participate.



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7. Assistive devices, such as crutches and wheelchairs, are necessary for individuals with disabilities. Don't remove them from someone unless they have instructed you to do so.



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8. Speak to the person with the disability, not to a friend or attendant.



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9. Treat people with disabilities as you yourself would like to be treated. Dignity, respect and common sense are very important!



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Summary

This presentation has provided insight to the audience on how to foster accepting attitudes when dealing with people with disabilities.

Through understanding and acceptance we can build positive relationships.

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Thank You

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