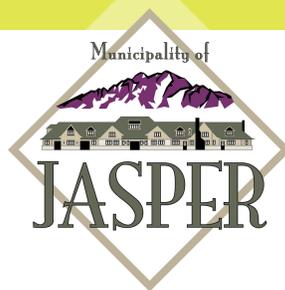


DIVERSE. INCLUSIVE. TOGETHER.



The Municipality of Jasper believes in the advancement of a connected and equitable society. Celebrating diversity and practicing inclusion promotes respect for all citizens, strengthens the community, reduces causes of disadvantage and inequality and ensures that all citizens of Jasper enjoy the best quality of possible.

- **Adapted from the Municipality of Jasper Community Sustainability Plan**

UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY

According to Statistics Canada's 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability:

- 13.7% of the Canadian population (3.8 million people) aged 15 years and older report having a disability.
- More than 8 out of 10 persons with disabilities use aides and assistive devices.
- 10.1% of working-age Canadians (15–64) reported having a disability, compared to 33.2% of seniors (65+).

How does that translate in Jasper?

Based on the national average, approximately 520 people 15 years and older live with a disability in Jasper.

WHAT IS A DISABILITY?

Physical Disability: Any degree of physical disability, deformity, malformation, or disfigurement that is caused by an injury, birth defect or illness. This includes, but is not limited to, epilepsy; paralysis; amputation; lack of physical coordination; visual, hearing and speech impediments; and physical reliance on a guide dog, wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device.

Mental Disability: Any mental disorder, developmental disorder or learning disorder, regardless of the cause or duration of the disorder.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City of St. Albert | Canadian Centre for Diversity & Inclusion
Equity & Inclusion Lens Handbook - City of Ottawa and CAWI

This diversity 'snapshot' is intended to help you learn more about the people in our community who risk exclusion. Each snapshot is about a specific group, but there is diversity within each group. As such, these snapshots are not all encompassing, they are rather a jumping off point for discussion.

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

DECEMBER 3

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

WHY IT MATTERS...

Persons with disabilities, “the world’s largest minority”, have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is largely due to the lack of services available to them (like information and communications technology (ICT), justice or transportation) and the many obstacles they face in their everyday lives. These obstacles can take a variety of forms, including those relating to the physical environment, or those resulting from legislation or policy, or from societal attitudes or discrimination.

People with disabilities are at much higher risk of violence:

- Children with disabilities are almost 4x more likely to experience violence than non-disabled children.
- Adults with disabilities are 1.5x more likely to be a victim of violence than those without a disability.
- Adults with mental health conditions are at nearly 4x the risk of experiencing violence.

But why?

Factors that place people with disabilities at higher risk of violence include stigma, discrimination, ignorance about disability and a lack of social support for those who care for them.

EFFECTIVE INCLUSION

Evidence and experience shows that when barriers to inclusion are removed and persons with disabilities are empowered to participate fully in societal life, their entire community benefits. Barriers faced by persons with disabilities are, therefore, a detriment to society as a whole, and accessibility is necessary to achieve progress and development for all. **Think about your neighborhood, workplace, places you go to play and shop.**

What do we need to do better to remove barriers, be inclusive and empower people with disabilities?