

Disability Community to Host National Election Debate on Disability Issues

(Vancouver, BC – September 1, 2021) A coalition of over 25 disability organizations are calling on the major political parties to attend a national election debate on disability issues. Organized by the Pan-Canadian Disability Coalition on September 7, this debate will give the major political parties the opportunity to share their vision and platform for the nearly 6.2 million Canadians with disabilities. The debate on disability issues will be hosted by reporter and commentator, Craig Oliver. Craig Oliver is the current chief political commentator for CTV and is the host of “Challenges & Change with Craig Oliver” on AMI.

Canadians with disabilities are far too often an afterthought of politicians and government. During the last federal election, no question was asked during the leaders debates about persons with disabilities or about creating a more accessible Canada. As a result, the community has taken it upon themselves to host a national and accessible debate, focused exclusively on people with disabilities.

“Across Canada, people with disabilities continue to face daily barriers to inclusion and their ability to be thriving members of their community. This has been exacerbated even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current election gives all parties the opportunity and the ability to change this,” said Steven Estey, a national disability advocate and Lead Consultant with the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society. “Civic engagement is important for all members of society, and this is no different for those with disabilities. Our community must hold our politicians accountable to create a barrier-free and more accessible society.”

The Pan-Canadian Disability Coalition will be hosting the debate on Tuesday September 7 at 7:00pm ET. The debate will be streamed on Facebook Live. The coalition has decided to set the eligibility for the debate based on the qualification set out by the Leader’s Debate Commission, and have invited the leaders from the Bloc Québécois, Conservative Party of Canada, Green Party of Canada, New Democratic Party and Liberal Party of Canada. The debate will be offered in English and French, and feature ASL, LSQ, and CART services.

To learn more, visit: www.wavefrontcentre.ca/debate.

About the Pan-Canadian Disability Coalition

The Pan-Canadian Disability Coalition is a coalition of over 25 disability organizations across Canada. Our 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. Our mission will 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 barrières
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