



Welcome to our second newsletter!

Welcome! CODC is your new resource for people with disabilities and their allies. Take the time to explore our website at www.codc.today and watch it grow as time goes by. Our newsletter is quarterly but our website and Facebook page are constantly evolving. The Central Okanagan Disability Coalition brings together initiatives on accessibility, transportation and information. We believe that the more we share news, resources and good practices, the better life will be for people with disabilities in the Central Okanagan.

Don't miss out on our next edition - click here to [sign up for the newsletter](#).

Contents - Fall 2017

Read on for information on:

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Accessible Transit



The [Accessible Transit Advisory Group](#) meets quarterly with representatives of BC Transit and the City of Kelowna.

CONSULTATION IS COMING! In the Spring, BC Transit, in consultation with the City of Kelowna and the volunteers members of the Accessible Transit Advisory Group, is looking for the opinions of those who use the handyDART system and their allies - meaning carers, family members, staff at care facilities, OTs, community nurses, and more. Look to our next newsletter for the details of how and when this will happen, and contact us at transit@codc.today with any ideas, suggestions or questions.

Some reminders:

- Travel training is now available for those people wishing to learn to use the fixed route conventional system. This is done by Meridian Rehab and you can reach them by calling (250) 868-3086 to book an appointment.
- The registration process for the custom transit system (handyDART) has changed and involves in-person assessments from an Occupational Therapist. Here are a list of [FAQs](#).
- Did you know that the Central Okanagan handyDART hours have been expanded on Saturdays? The service is available from 9am to 6pm.
- Winter is coming! Don't get cold or wet - or both - while waiting for your ride - get those winter clothes out now!

Spotlight on Hands In Service

HANDS IN SERVICE
— LOVE · GIVES · BACK —

Hands in Service provides countless hours of support to our community, and all with no direct government funding. Visit our blog to read the full [Hands In Service story](#), and support their [Touch of Christmas 2017](#) event on December 2nd.



Take Part - participate in government consultation!

Now, more than ever, all levels of government are reaching out to citizens and asking them to take part in discussions. on all kinds of policies and decisions. It's really important to get the perspective of disabled people included as an integral plans at all levels. Read our [blog post](#) for suggestions of ways that you can take part

locally, provincially and federally.

Access the Central Okanagan - The Okanagan Rail Trail



The Okanagan Rail Trail is an exciting new addition to our community, offering miles of easy hiking, whether you walk or roll. See Michelle explore the test section of the trail in this [YouTube](#) video and check the [website](#) for updates of each section that opens.



Blogspot - Thud, Thud, Thud

Have you tried booking an accessible hotel room? Michelle writes about her [experiences in hotel reservations](#), and the frustrations that come with it.

News, Idea and Links from Near and Far



This newsletter brings you news on:

- We are certain that we will be covering ride-sharing in more detail in the months ahead. For now, read [Andrew Weaver's troubling plans](#).
- [New Westminster used plain language](#) for its Community Inclusion Month proclamation. We hope that this becomes normal practice.
- There is a [lending library](#) for children with autism in Richmond.
- Do you disclose your disability when applying for a job? Read what happen to this woman when she [chose not to disclose](#).
- Exciting use of [smart beacons](#) for blind people in Toronto. Let's hope it rolls out everywhere soon.
- The Canadian Transportation Authority has ruled in favour of there being more than one wheelchair/scooter spot on a train. Read this couple's [challenge to VIA Rail](#).
- Do you like Sci-Fi? Then [this magazine](#) might be for you!

- Think accessibility is a challenge in 'heritage buildings' in Canada? Think again!
It can be done on [Roman walls!](#)



We need you!

CODC needs help to grow. Here's some of the ways you could volunteer:

- Spread the word - share the newsletter with friends, family and organizations you're involved with.
- Do you know of a great service or organization that deserves to have a spotlight? Let us know!
- Do you have ideas for articles - you can either pass the ideas on or write them yourself!
- Have you seen the resources list on the [CODC website](#)? Do you have suggestions or could you help to update it?
- Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help CODC grow in our community by being involved in its organization?

If the answer to any or all of these questions is YES, then email us at newsletter@codc.today.

Stay In Touch!

Did you enjoy reading the newsletter? We hope so!

If you received it by subscribing through our website - thank you! The next edition will come straight to your inbox

If you received it in a PDF, perhaps forwarded to you by someone - please [subscribe](#)! We might miss you next time!

If you have questions, suggestions, ideas, please get in touch at newsletter@codc.today and we will get right back to you.

Have a wonderful summer and look for us in the fall.

**Central Okanagan Disability
Coalition**

www.codc.today

newsletter@codc.today

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