



Welcome!

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

Read on for information on:

- Accessible Transit
- Spotlight on Inclusion BC's conference in Kelowna
- Take Part - a summary of the places you can give your input to federal, provincial and local government.
- Access the Central Okanagan - City of Kelowna's Accessibility Audit
- Blogspot - What was in the BC Budget 2018 for people with disabilities?
- News, ideas and links from near and far.

Accessible Transit



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

Fare Equity

Did you see handyDART in the [news](#) recently? There has been a long term fare inequity where those handyDART riders that buy monthly passes or booklets of tickets have been paying more than those that buy monthly passes or booklets of tickets for regular transit. It's taken 18 months to get this before Council, but, due to the work of the Accessible Transit Advisory Group, this week it finally passed! It still has to pass in both Lake Country and West Kelowna, but the changes are closer - and faster than the usual fare review.

A good example of disability advocacy in action! Look out for a reduction in prices imminently!

Your views are wanted in April!

In April BC Transit, in conjunction with the Accessible Transit Advisory Group, will be seeking your opinions on handyDART.

If you are registered for handyDART and have used it in the last 6 months, you will be receiving a survey in the mail, in April.

If you are registered for handyDART but have not been a passenger in the last 6 months, you will be able to give your opinions by an online survey - and we will make sure we share the link in our next newsletter.

The more responses BC Transit receive, the better they can shape our transit needs for the future.

Are you involved with an organization that has a lot of members that use handyDART? Do you work in a care home that has a lot of residents that use handyDART? How can we help your people to complete the survey? Get in touch - transit@codc.today

Spotlight on Rise Up! May 24-26 in Kelowna

An exciting opportunity for Kelowna as Inclusion BC's annual learning event is going to be here from May 24 to 26. Read more about the conference, and find all the links at this [blog post](#).



Are you an artist with intellectual disabilities? Your artwork could be chosen to be

part of the conference! The deadline is fast approaching to submit your work - March 15th! All details can be found on [Inclusion BC's website](#).



Take Part - participate in government consultation!

Making sure that the viewpoint of people with disabilities is heard in all types of consultations is really important! All levels of government ask for our views, through a variety of surveys. Look through these links to see if there's something that

interests you!

Federal - Government of Canada

The [Consulting with Canadians](#) page lists all open consultations and gives reports on those that have closed.

Provincial - Government of British Columbia

BC's citizen engagement opportunities are all listed in a page called [govTogetherBC](#).

Local - City of Kelowna

[Get Involved, Kelowna](#) is the webpage that brings together all the citizen engagement opportunities for Kelowna.

Local - City of West Kelowna

Updates on when consultation is happening in West Kelowna are kept current on their [Civic Engagement](#) webpage.

Local - District of Lake Country

[Have Your Say](#) explains how to express your opinion to council in Lake Country.

Local - Westbank First Nation

[Get Involved](#) lists the ways you can have your say.

Access the Central Okanagan - the City of Kelowna Accessibility Audit

As part of its Community for All Ages project, the



City of Kelowna conducted an audit of parks and buildings. Lindsay Clement provides a [report on the progress](#) so far.



Blogspot - BC Budget 2018

Wondering how the BC Budget affects those with disabilities? A [quick summary](#) is available for you!

News, Idea and Links from Near and Far

This newsletter brings you news on:

- the efforts by the BC government to bring in [ride sharing](#).
- Calgary, where [fully automated apartments](#) are being built for people with disabilities.
- how the [Canadian GDP](#) will see huge increases by improving disability access.
- Toyota's [Mobility For All](#) campaign, with some exciting hi-tech solutions. (Human Support Robot would be very useful, says Michelle!)
- examples of [Accessible Cities](#), worldwide.
- troubling reports from [Nova Scotia](#), on housing for people with disabilities.
- an example of a [cafe in Yorkshire](#), England, that supports people with disabilities looking for opportunities to work that would usually be denied to them.
- A discussion on [smartphone accessibility](#).
- advances in technology allowing this [exciting communication](#) for a woman who has been locked in her body.



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.

**Central Okanagan Disability
Coalition**

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