

Disabilities and Human Rights

Questions for Community Dialogue

1. Ms. Ulanicki spoke of a “new age” Frankenstein. What was she referring to?
2. Discuss societal stigmas (attitudes) relating to disability in Canada.
3. Ms. Ulanicki discussed the notion of seeing “the world from a perspective that others don’t.” What kind of perspective do you think that is?
4. Reflect on your day thus far. How would it differ if you required the use of a wheelchair? For example, if you have been to a public washroom, are there paper towels in the bathroom right next to the sink, or would a wheelchair user have to get her hands dirty while wheeling over to the towels? Are there large gaps and/or potholes in the floor/ground? Would a wheelchair user get stuck anywhere? Is there a lowered water fountain? Does it contain enough space underneath it that a wheelchair user could actually wheel up to the fountain or washbasin? Are the doors heavy?
5. Discuss the condition of human rights for people living with disabilities in Canada. Do you think that governments should ensure that those living with a disability are accommodated?
6. It was stated on the video that peoples with disabilities are in every other demographic group and in every other “visible minority.” How do you feel this affects those living with a disability?
7. Ableism is discrimination against those who do not appear able-bodied. Come up with well-written, well-reasoned arguments against ableism. For example, an ableist attitude might be that people living with a physical disability are “burdens on society.” How can you refute these arguments without just saying that it’s wrong?
8. Ms. Ulanicki said, “I can’t wait for a day when we are just included and I don’t have to talk about it anymore.” What do you think needs to occur in order for this to happen?