CAN Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

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Vision

To be Canada's cross-sectoral, national platform to empower persons with disabilities; improving socio-economic and health outcomes; and changing mindsets and behaviours for a more accessible and inclusive Canada.

Mission

The mission of the Canadian Accessibility Network is to:

- Advance accessibility for persons with disabilities through research, design, technology and innovation; education and training; policy; employment; and community engagement;

- Mobilize strategic partnerships among individuals and institutions dedicated to advancing accessibility to encourage innovative and action-oriented leadership; and

- Leverage Canada's accessibility assets across sectors and disciplines to encourage system-level changes and cultural shifts in equity, mindsets and behaviours regarding persons with disabilities.

Cross-Sectoral Value Proposition

The creation of the Canadian Accessibility Network (CAN) provides an unparalleled opportunity for academic institutions, non-profit organizations, governments and businesses to combine and leverage their respective assets to advance accessibility and bring about timely, real and lasting change for persons with disabilities. By joining efforts in a sustained way, these partners can:

- Learn continuously from one another to enhance the quality, availability and accessibility of their respective facilities, programs and services and the support they offer to persons with disabilities;

- Provide a more comprehensive and integrated evidence base for public policy development, program decision-making and advocacy regarding accessibility;

- Create a more complementary and integrated inventory of offerings for education, training, employment, engagement and inclusion of persons with disabilities; and

- Reinforce each other's commitments to raise public awareness about accessibility and promote efforts to optimize the contributions of persons with disabilities.

Guiding Principles (Values)

- **Accessibility** - The Network will facilitate equitable and timely access for individuals and organizations to the knowledge, programs, services and community engagement efforts of the Network.

- **Inclusion** - The Network will embody "nothing about us, without us" by promoting inclusiveness and equity in determining its strategic directions, in its day-to-day operations, and in the engagement of partners and stakeholders.

- **Intersectionality** – In alignment with the Accessible Canada Act and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Network acknowledges intersectionality and human rights as an organizing framework for all of its work. We recognize the diversity of identities and lived experiences in our society and the reality of multiple inequalities faced by people with disabilities. The Network will apply this intersectional lens to all of its decision-making processes.

- **Collaboration** - The Network will collaborate effectively with disability communities and partners in the public, non-profit and private sectors to maximize the relevance, application and impact of its knowledge and offerings.

- **Excellence** - The Network will enable research, education, training, policy development and knowledge mobilization regarding accessibility of the highest international standard and best practices.

- **Innovation** - The Network will initiate and catalyze new approaches to understanding accessibility and new means to address Canadians' accessibility challenges and opportunities.

- **Sustainability** - The Network will pursue its mission in a manner that promotes the sustainability of its partners and enables it to attract the resources required to grow the capacity and contributions of the Network.

- **Accountability** - The Network will govern and manage its operations with integrity to ensure strong stewardship of the resources entrusted to it, be accountable to its partners, and maintain the trust and confidence of the people whom it seeks to serve and engage.