Tech Symposium 2008
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Accessible Media Policies: Creating, Implementing and Sustaining them in Higher Learning Environments
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Presented by Karen Walker
Accessible Media Co-ordinator
Agenda

- Video Presentation: TALK
- Disability Profile and Post-Secondary Education
- Developing, Implementing and Sustaining Accessible Media Policies
- Challenges, Successes and Best Practices
The major barrier persons with disabilities face is not the disability itself, but lack of acceptance by others.
A 12 minute video created by the Disability Rights Commission (UK)
Types of Disability

- Physical
- Sensory
- Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing
- Mental Health
- Development
- Learning
14.3% of all Canadians have a disability

Aboriginals aged 15+ have a disability more than twice the national average

4.7% of Canadians aged 15-24 have a disability
• 15.5% of Ontarians have a disability. This number will grow as the population ages.

• Between 2001 and 2006, Ontario’s population grew by about 7%, while the number of people with disabilities increased by 22%.

• People with disabilities have an estimated spending power of $25 billion annually across Canada.
Canadians 15 years+

- 34% mobility, chronic pain and agility
- 5% have hearing loss
- 3.2% have vision loss
- 2.4% learning disability (a 40% increase since 2001)
Barriers

- Social
- Attitudinal
- Environmental
- Information
- Communication
- Technological
- Systemic
Profile of Adults with Disabilities aged 15-64

- 70% of all new jobs require some form of post-secondary education
- 25% of these jobs require a degree
- Canada’s community colleges & universities provide education to over 1 million Canadians annually
- Adults with disabilities attain lower levels of education
  - 37% have not finished high school
  - 16% completed college
  - 11% completed university
Profile of Employment of Deaf Canadians

- 20.6% fully employed
- 41.9% under-employed
- 37.5% unemployed
- 85% of Deaf Ontarians are under-employed or unemployed
- 62% of Ontarians with disabilities are unemployed

By Comparison:
- 60.9% of all Canadians are fully employed
- 8.1% of all Canadians are unemployed

Canadian Association of the Deaf, 1998
Post-Secondary Environments

• Dramatic increase in number of students with disabilities entering post-secondary education in Canada since 1980’s, with the exception of Deaf youth

• Barriers include attitudes of service providers and faculty, lack of funding, discrimination, lack of knowledge of student rights

• Development of standards of practice and policies to ensure equity
Legislation

- Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982)
- Canadian Human Rights Act (1977)
- Provincial Human Rights Codes
- Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2001)
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005)
Accessible Media

Closed Captioning

- Audio-visual materials in any format must have captions

E-Text

- Instructional and promotional materials must be available in digital format
Stakeholders in Accessibility

- Library
- Faculty
- Human Rights
- Publishers
- Media Producers
- Staff Development
- Human Resources

Learner
Policy Creation

- Identify the issue
- Define the scope
- Determine Support Services and Resources
- Endorsement and Support of Administration
- Collaboration
- Education
Policy Implementation

- Raising Awareness
- Forming Partnerships
- Advocating Change
- Evaluation and Modification
Sustaining The Policy

- Challenges
- Successes
- Best Practices
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