

Making Your Event Accessible

1. Does the location you have chosen have a level front entrance or a ramp, wheelchair accessible parking close to the front entrance, elevators that have low buttons and Braille markings, and adapted washroom stalls?
2. Have you booked the required number of interpreters, arranged for amplifying units complete with the required number of headsets, arranged for real-time recording, reserved captioned films?
3. Have you made sure the background noise can be reduced, if not eliminated, that every part of the event is smoke-free, asked participants to refrain from using strong scents?
4. Have you chosen rooms large enough for wheelchair users, reserved seats in the front row for deaf, deafened, and hard-of-hearing women?
5. Have you hired attendants for the event, designated a table for the attendants, given the attendants details of the participants' needs?
6. Have all your publicity materials been printed in language that is easy to read and understand?
7. Have you produced all your materials in large print, on cassette tape, and in Braille?
8. Have you included "access symbols" on printed materials to show what kind of access you provide?

Excerpted from Access Checklist, published by the DisAbled Women's Network and available through DAWN Ontario, 180 Dundas Street West, Suite 210, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z8 (416) 598-2438.

FUNDING CUTS TO DAWN CANADA

The national office of the DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN Canada) closed as of March 31, 1993 due to substantial cuts in the project funding received from the Secretary of State. The organization does not receive core funding to run their national office.

The funding cuts at the national level will not directly affect local chapters of DAWN, which are provincially funded, but these local chapters have now lost the centre of their network.

DAWN is hoping that women will protest the funding cuts by telephone, fax or letter to: Minister of Secretary of State, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0M5. Telephone: (819) 997-7788, fax: (819) 994-5987.

Information obtained from "DisAbled Women's Network: Cuts threaten dusk for DAWN" by Susan Briscoe, Kinesis, April 1993.

S. JONES

Songs from my Cerebellum

Chunks
heave
Misshapen
from
my mouth
I hear
again
as always
pieces
confusing
the listener
puzzling
questioning
meaning
intelligence
mine
I wonder too
why
this stutter of
my brain
when
secretly
my cerebellum sings
cerebral songs
sounds
for me
singular
a solo
de savante
still
mute
dumb
a silence
not merely
golden