**DAWN Canada**

**Ticking a box, or building a movement?**

**Presented by: Bonnie L. Brayton**

**Building an Inclusive Canada: A National Disability Summit**

**Ottawa**

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**Slide 2 :** ABOUT DAWN CANADA - Mission

* Our mission is to end the poverty, isolation, discrimination and violence experienced by Canadian women with disabilities and Deaf women.
* For nearly 35 years, DAWN Canada has worked towards the advancement and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women by creating change at a systemic level. This includes building strategic partnerships, developing curriculum and educational tools, and addressing policy change.

**Slide 3:** ABOUT DAWN CANADA – How we work

* Grounded in the lived experiences of women with disabilities and Deaf women, and using an evidence-based approach, DAWN Canada works to create change at a systemic level in order to directly improve the quality of life for women with disabilities.
* We amplify the voice of women with disabilities and Deaf women by ensuring that they are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter most, including violence prevention, health equity, and access to justice.
* We work to increase the capacity of women with disabilities and Deaf women in their communities to support their leadership in articulating their needs.

**Slide 4:** OUR APPROACH

**FOUR PILLARS**

**RESEARCH:** We work with community-based researchers and academic partners to shift the discussion around how research and community development can and should be done using an intersectional approach.

**EDUCATION:** We work with partners, sharing research in order to develop curriculum and tools to deepen knowledge and skill in the practice of intersectionality and inclusion to a range of stakeholders.

**POLICY:** We continue to challenge and engage policy-makers in the review and development of policies so that they are informed by community-defined needs.

**ADVOCACY:** We are committed to ensuring that the voices of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women and girls are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter to us most. **NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**

**Slide 5:** The need for an intersectional lens

**Intersectionality**

* **Intersectionality** takes into account how different kinds of discrimination work together.
* First used by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, the principles of intersectionality have been present in Black feminist thought for decades, as a way of understanding the complexities of Black women’s lives.
* Indigenous understandings of connectedness and ‘all my relations’ share many links with intersectionality.

Source FACT SHEET 2: INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN AND PRECARITY <http://www.criaw-icref.ca/images/userfiles/files/FS%202%20FINAL.pdf>

**Slide 6:** The need for an intersectional lens

**Intersectionality**

* This diagram provides a way to think about intersectionality, with the innermost circle representing a person’s unique circumstances.
* The next circle represents aspects of identity. The third represents different types of discrimination/isms/attitudes that impact identity.
* The outermost circle represents larger forces and structures that work together to reinforce exclusion.
* Note: It is impossible to name every discrimination, identity or structure. These are just examples to help give a sense of what intersectionality is.

Source FACT SHEET 2: INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN AND PRECARITY <http://www.criaw-icref.ca/images/userfiles/files/FS%202%20FINAL.pdf>

**Slide 7:** The need for an intersectional lens

Women with disabilities who experience violence as children are almost two times as likely as those who had not experienced physical abuse to be victimized in the last 12 months.

In general, women with disabilities who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual experience 2.3 times higher rates of violence than among heterosexual women with disabilities.

Women who experience mental health related disabilities and those with cognitive disabilities experience disproportionately high rates of sexual assault.

Aboriginal women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and thus bigger targets for sexual predators.

Indigenous children with disabilities remain one of the most oppressed groups in Canada.

Where refugees are concerned, women and girls remain exposed to sexual violence due to long processing times and a lack of laws to protect them from human trafficking.

**Slide 8:**

“Indigenous women living with a disability face barriers and discriminatory actions on three fronts: being a woman; being Indigenous and living with a disability.” Neil Belanger, Executive Director, British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, June 2016.

“Indigenous women aged 25 to 54 were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous women to report having disabilities (21.3% versus 9.1%, respectively)." CENTRE FOR GENDER. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATISTICS.

**Slide 9 :**

More than half of all discrimination complaints in Canada are about disability.

Canadians with disabilities face disproportionately high levels of discrimination in employment and when receiving services.

Canadian Human Rights Commission: <http://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/chrc_un_crpd_report_eng.pdf>

According to the Canadian Survey on Disability released in 2018 by Statistics Canada, 24% of women in Canada live with a disability. CENTRE FOR GENDER. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATISTICS

**Slide 10:** INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES IN POLICY

**CANADIAN WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AND ACCESS TO SHELTERS & TRANSITION HOUSES**

Disability is the one intersection that all women in Canada may experience at some point in their lives, regardless of any other factor and it goes beyond race, class, sexual orientation or geography.

<https://buff.ly/2BuoxHa>

**Slide 11:** INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES IN POLICY

**CANADIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

* Collect disaggregated data on all forms of human trafficking
* Use an intersectional approach in the analysis of human trafficking

<https://buff.ly/2qdgh8s>

**Slide 12:** INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES IN POLICY

**HEALTH ISSUES FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

* Disability and LGBTQ issues are often treated as separate. But people with disabilities can also be members of the LGBTQ community.
* In examining the healthcare needs of members of the LGBTQ community, disability (as well as age, ethnicity, gender, etc.) must also be considered.

**Slide 13:** EMERGING TREND IN POLICY

**GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS (GBA+)**

* The Government of Canada has committed to using GBA+ in the development of policies, programs and legislation across all departments.
* In reality, this is still a work in progress, as not all departments routinely apply this analysis to their work.

**Slide 14:** POLICY

**ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS THROUGH POLICY CHANGE**

Poster: What do women with disabilities and Deaf women in Rural Canada need?

More Than A Footnote Infographic.

**Slide 15:** CONTACT US

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