

DAWN CANADA -

DISABLED WOMEN'S NETWORK OF CANADA



FEMINIST DISABILITY
LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

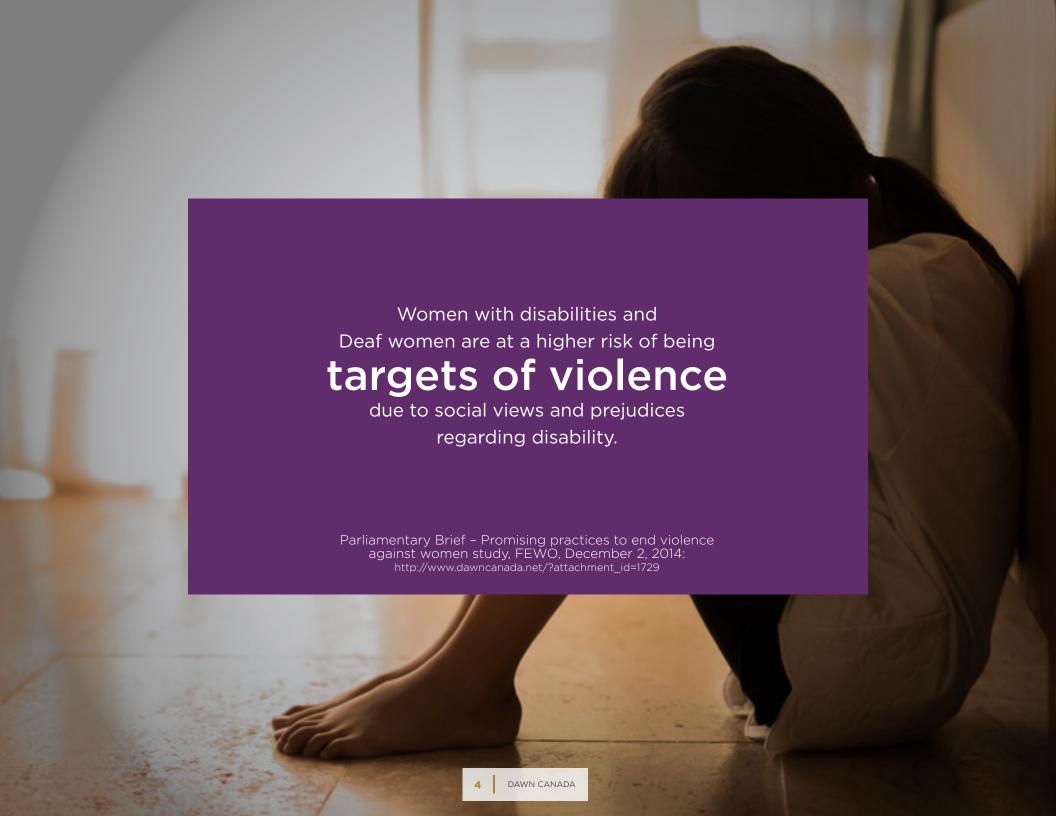


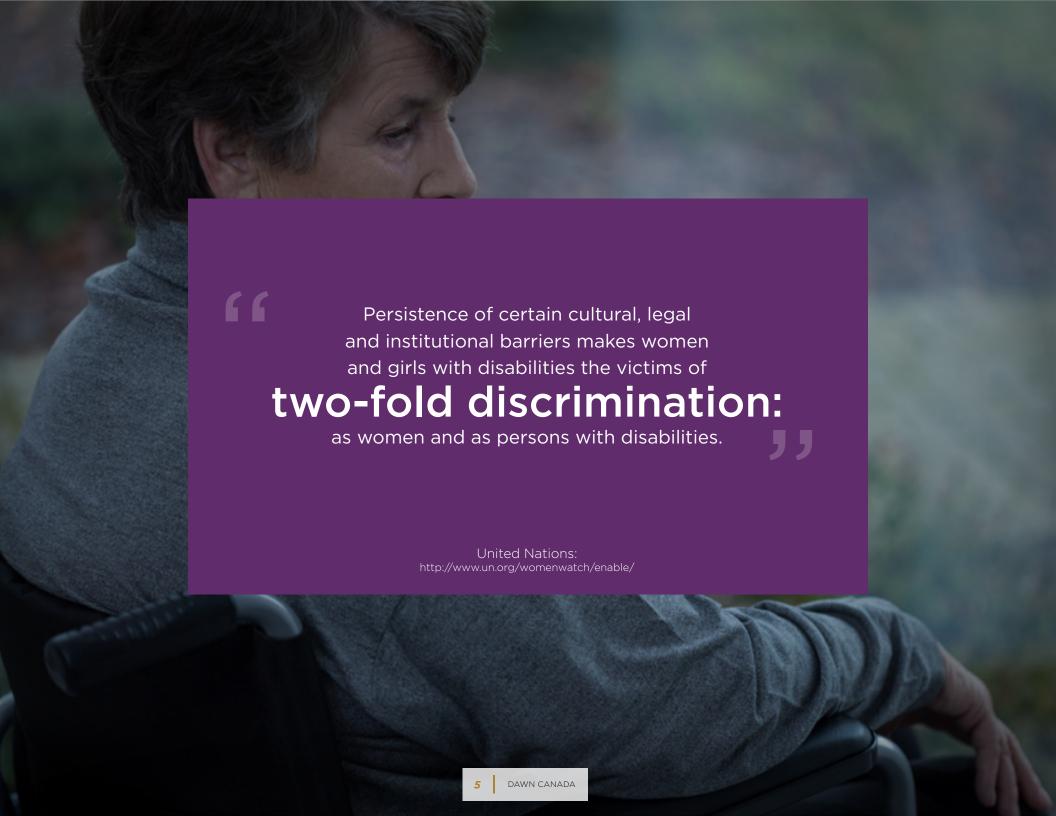
one billion people

with disabilities worldwide, more than half of which are women, making them the world's largest minority group.

World Health Report on Disability, 2011 http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70670/1/WHO_NMH_VIP_11.01_eng.pdf









Nearly 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 DAWN CANADA



In 1985, 17 women with disabilities from across the country met in Ottawa for an inaugural meeting that would lead to the formation of the DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN).

The foundation was set for a national, feminist, cross-disability organization that has provided opportunities for self-determination and leadership development for women with disabilities for 30 years.

In the early years, DAWN Canada produced a large number of resources and influential research that still stands as a framework for understanding the issues faced by women with disabilities.

Today, we continue our mission to end the poverty, isolation, discrimination and violence experienced by Canadian women with disabilities and Deaf women.

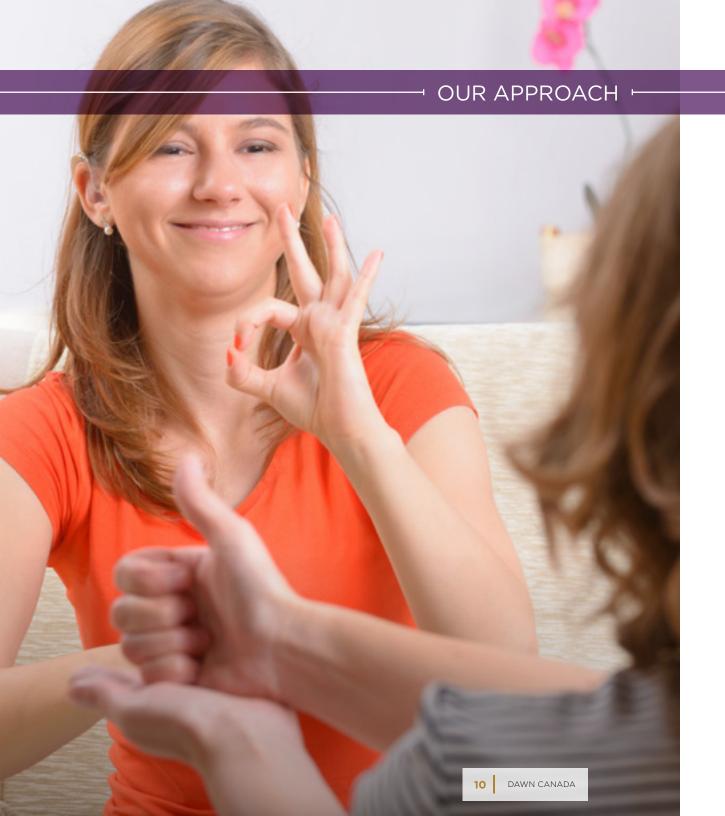
DAWN Canada remains the only national feminist disability organization in the country and one of only a handful in the world.



In 2015, DAWN Canada celebrated 30 years of service to Canadian women with disabilities and Deaf women.

Through 30 years of collaboration and hard work, DAWN has the unique expertise and experience to support and develop the leadership of women and girls with disabilities. Under the leadership of our President and our Board, and with the energy and vision of our National Executive Director, and Staff, all of whom are women with disabilities, DAWN Canada continues to represent the voice of women with disabilities and Deaf women, both nationally and internationally.

We advocate for equity as a means of achieving equality for all women by making sure that women and girls with disabilities have everything they need to reach their goals. We promote approaches that recognize, accommodate and celebrate differences.



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.

CREATING CHANGE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We work to create change by building strategic partnerships with those who are best able to respond to the issues and engage them in developing appropriate and inclusive responses.

We serve as an essential bridge between the women's and disability sectors. We have a rich history of collaborating with organizations in the social justice sector, and our many partners in the Labour Movement. We work with governments at the provincial and national levels and with community and universitybased researchers.

We have aligned our network with partners who are prepared to take collective responsibility for addressing the systemic marginalization of women and girls with disabilities and Deaf women.



OUR WORK -

CREATING CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION

With a view to creating systemic change, 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 the intersectional approach. Our goal is to ensure that this becomes the standard of practice.

We also develop curriculum tools to deepen knowledge and skill in the practice of inclusion on the part of instructors, students and service providers in a variety of settings.

At the community level, we create tools for the selfempowerment of women with disabilities and Deaf women on topics such as violence, mothering, and access to breast cancer screening.

Staying true to our grassroots, we keep women with disabilities at the centre of our work. The resulting knowledge, practices and services promote the inclusion of women with disabilities and Deaf women.



OUR WORK -

CREATING CHANGE THROUGH POLICY DEVELOPMENT

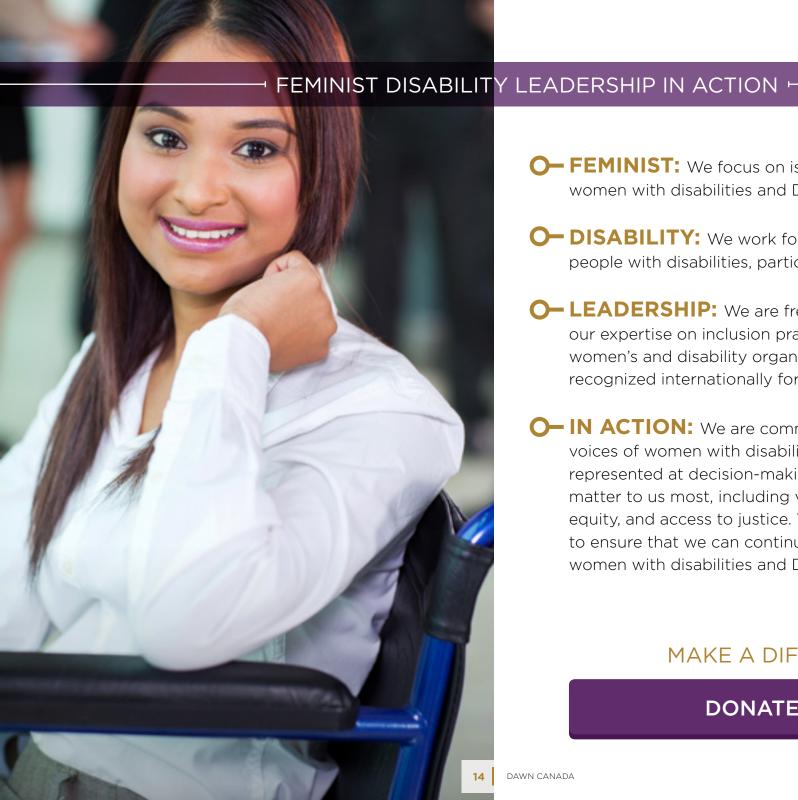
Gaps in policy and resource allocations lead to gaps in service. Gaps in policy and services for women with disabilities is the reason we have the highest rates of violence, poverty and unemployment in Canada and around the world.

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

We also work to increase the capacity of women with disabilities and Deaf women in their communities to support their leadership in articulating their needs around policies and programs that affect their lives.

In this way, we create the conditions for long-term change in the quality of life of women with disabilities and Deaf women.





- O— FEMINIST: We focus on issues that matter to women with disabilities and Deaf women.
- O DISABILITY: We work for the inclusion of all people with disabilities, particularly women and girls.
- O-LEADERSHIP: We are frequently sought out for our expertise on inclusion practice by governments, women's and disability organizations. We have been recognized internationally for our anti-violence work.
- O-IN ACTION: We are committed to ensuring that the voices of women with disabilities and Deaf women are represented at decision-making tables in the areas that matter to us most, including violence prevention, health equity, and access to justice. We need your support to ensure that we can continue to improve the lives of women with disabilities and Deaf women.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

DONATE NOW!

FEMINIST DISABILITY PARTNERSHIPS +





The systemic and long-standing marginalization of women and girls with disabilities requires ongoing leadership and the sustained and long term commitment of our Partners (to full inclusion).

Through Feminist Disability Leadership, whether it's been given or taken, we have found our place at many tables in recent years.

The result of our presence is a strong and strategic network of organizational, institutional and individual partners who are committed to sharing the collective responsibility for the full social and economic inclusion of women with disabilities and Deaf women in Canada.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!







Our collaboration with community-based researchers and academics ensures research is inclusive and intersectional, and that a feminist disability lens is applied as a standard of practice.

Curriculum tools that we develop deepen knowledge and skill in the practice of inclusion on the part of instructors as well as students in a variety of settings. Resulting resources serve to empower women with disabilities and Deaf women.

Feminist disability research pushes the boundaries of traditional frameworks, with an intersectional approach that results in research that is inclusive of all women. Your support of this work ensures that the critical perspective of women with disabilities and Deaf women is brought to the research table.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JOIN US!

FEMINIST DISABILITY LEADERSHIP IN POLICY -





Policy reforms are urgently required to ensure that existing policies reflect the needs of women with disabilities and Deaf women.

We regularly challenge government and stakeholders to examine current policies and to undertake policy reform.

We work to increase the capacity of women with disabilities and Deaf women in their communities to support their leadership in articulating their needs around policies and programs that affect their lives. Your support will help ensure that the voices of women with disabilities and Deaf women are represented at the tables where policy and programs decisions are being made.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SUPPORT US!