

December 7, 2017

Claire McNeil  
Dalhousie Legal Aid Service  
2209 Gottingen Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Ms. McNeil,

I have been retained by Dalhousie Legal Aid Service, lawyers for the Disability Rights Coalition, to provide an opinion concerning certain issues raised by the human rights complaint in *MacLean, Delaney, Cain and the Disability Rights Coalition v Nova Scotia*. In particular, I have been asked to prepare a report that brings a Disability Studies perspective to the examination of a factual scenario that you have provided. That scenario is attached as Appendix “A” to this report.

I acknowledge that it is my duty to provide opinion evidence in relation to this matter that is fair, objective, non-partisan, and within my area of expertise. Attached as Appendix “B” is a copy of my curriculum vitae, detailing the professional and community experience upon which my opinion is based. I undertake to provide whatever additional assistance the Nova Scotia Human Rights Board of Inquiry may reasonably require to make its determination, and understand that my responsibilities as an independent commentator supersede any obligation to individuals or associations with whom I may be engaged.

### 1. The scenario

In the scenario that you have provided, a provincial government assumes responsibility for providing “residential supports and services” – specifically, supportive community-based housing – for low income disabled persons who require such services. Simultaneously, however, the government effectively freezes any expansion of its capacities to provide *Small Option* homes. Persons currently living in these homes are protected from arbitrary loss of such support, but with only limited exceptions, additional persons who present themselves as otherwise eligible for *Small Option* homes must wait until grandfathered recipients die, become no longer disabled, or otherwise experience life-changing circumstances such that they no longer require, desire or qualify for supportive community-based housing.

The phrase “*Small Option homes*” is used in the scenario to denote the stock of community-based housing in which supports are provided for households of 3-4 low-income persons with disabilities. I do not have extensive and particular knowledge of *Small Option homes*, but understand that these housing arrangements fit within the broad category of supportive housing for disabled citizens, which I have defined in the following terms:

Supportive housing combines relatively affordable housing with support services that enable individuals to maximize independent living in the community. People requiring supportive housing may include people with complex care needs, people with mobility impairments, individuals with developmental disabilities, psychiatric consumer/survivors, substance users, etc. Although these individuals are able to live independently with adequate supports (social service worker, developmental support

worker, personal support worker, etc.), the dearth of these supports can result in institutionalization or even homelessness.

To the extent that they are located in local neighbourhood settings, scaled to the natural patterns of North American adult lifestyles and replicating the daily rhythms, interactions and individuality that we associate with community living, *Small Option* homes contrast dramatically with *institutional* arrangements. These latter facilities may have hundreds of residents, all of whom live in highly uniform, impersonal and unnatural environments that offer little or no opportunity for the expression of individual preference or style. Daily routines are highly regimented and encounters with the “outside world” are minimal, except for the ubiquitous presence of television.

The deprivations and harms of long-term institutional living are a well-documented chapter in the history of disability in Canada. After well over a century of warehousing disabled people in institutional confinement, Canadian governments began in the 1970s to adopt policies of deinstitutionalization that culminated in the closure or transformation of developmental and psychiatric facilities. It is in this context that I understand and would situate the *Small Option homes* featured in the attached scenario.

It should also be noted that what I have referred to above as a virtual freeze on the existing capacity for *Small Option homes* is labelled in the scenario as a “Moratorium”, a word which the OED defines as a **postponement** or **temporary** suspension. Having remained in place for well over two decades, however, the designation of “moratorium” appears to be misleading at best. The observations that follow in this report therefore reflect upon the meaning and implication of a deliberate curtailment of growth in capacity to provide *Small Option* housing for disabled persons in a context of demonstrably growing need for such service. If the suspension in question does prove to have been a long-standing but indeed temporary one, I believe that these observations still hold.

## 2. Disability Studies and the concept of ableism

The Society for Disability Studies, a professional organization of global scholars in the field, has described the project of Disability Studies in the following terms:

“... examin[ing] the policies and practices of all societies to understand the social, rather than the physical or psychological, determinants of the experience of disability. Disability Studies has been developed to disentangle impairments from the myths, ideology and stigma that influence social interaction and social policy. The scholarship challenges the idea that the economic and social statuses and the assigned roles of people with disabilities are the inevitable outcomes of their condition”.

Rooted in the energetic debates of the disability rights movement, Disability Studies is an academic discipline that shifts attention away from individual deficiency and diagnosis, instead focusing on the arbitrary (and ultimately disabling) barriers embedded in exclusionary policies and practices. Scholarship in Disability Studies challenges the ways in which government policy privileges market forces (i.e., a “strong economy” with high GDP) and top-tier market participants (i.e., those who contribute most to the economy and GDP) while disadvantaging more marginal *bystander* citizens (i.e., persons who are disabled or frail, dependent and not productively employed).

Starting always from insights into the history of disability and the actual lived experience of disabled persons, scholars in Disability Studies have begun to chronicle the role that ableism plays in shaping social relations and public policy, as well as its role in delineating the fundamental separations between “disabled” and “nondisabled”, “ordinary” and “extraordinary”, “special” and “normal”. Professor Vera Chouinard from McMaster University defines ableism as “ideas, practices, institutions and social relations that presume ablebodiedness, and by so doing, construct persons with disabilities as marginalised ... and largely invisible ‘others’”.

My analytical framework for this opinion draws from a framing of ableism offered by Professor Dan Goodley of the University of Manchester. Goodley sees ableism in the “contemporary ideals on which the able, autonomous, productive citizen is based”. This aspirational ideal of the youthful, healthy, self-reliant, conscientious, resourceful and hard-working citizen infuses much of our contemporary social policy, from immigration to education, transportation, law enforcement and social welfare. An important concern for Disability Studies is therefore how ableism – through this ideal notion of the *plucky* citizen – distorts understanding of our role and entitlements as human beings. Ableist formulations, we quickly see, have affirmative and empowering effects for some, but effectively mark others as deficient, inadequate, needy and dis-entitled. Such falsely attributed characteristics are fertile ground for stereotypes and prejudice to take root.

### 3. Examining the scenario from a disability studies perspective

#### a. The policy rationale

No explicit policy rationale is given for the provincial decision to withhold approval on new offerings for *Small Option homes* – a position that has persisted across 22 years of bureaucratic and political decision-making. Clearly, the “moratorium” on *Small Option homes* is not driven by any levelling of demand: official wait lists have grown by hundreds, and as is often the case when needed services and supports are widely known to be unavailable, an “invisible backlog” likely places the real number of unserved citizens considerably higher. Neither is there any indication in the scenario that *Small Option homes* have somehow harmed or fundamentally failed to benefit persons who receive the support; were that the case, far more likely the program would have been cancelled (and replaced) outright.

I am therefore left to conclude that a logic of austerity is at play; certainly that is how the policy would be interpreted by disability advocates. The logic is simple: provision of housing subsidies, coupled with salaried personnel and other accommodation costs, requires government expenditure. To be sure, the cost associated with providing *Small Option home* placement is greater than the cost of maintaining a waiting list. Further, it clearly requires a greater share of provincial resources to provide *Small Option homes* than to compel citizens with disabilities to rely upon family or charitable friends for needed housing and supports.

Moreover, as long as there are vacancies in existing institutional facilities, and as long as those facilities remain operational despite policy commitments to the contrary, there *may* be a kind of bottom-line efficiency in “filling vacant beds” within those institutions rather than assisting disabled people to build lives for themselves and to flourish in local communities. In this regard, however, I hasten to make clear that what I have characterized as a possible “efficiency” is in fact neither efficient nor humane. Although

institutional placement *may* withstand the most narrow kind of purely monetary audit – a proposition in itself highly contestable – a preponderance of evidence can be summoned to demonstrate the profound personal and social harms that accrue from warehousing disabled people in large congregate facilities. An abundance of research and policy analysis, much of which is cited in Dr. Michael Bach’s report, exposes “the disadvantage, discrimination and deprivation that comes with being confined to institutions”.

#### b. The policy’s ableist underpinnings

Assuming that the policy choice reflected in this scenario is indeed premised upon the reasoning of cost containment, however questionable such reasoning might be, then any evaluation of this policy must tease out the assumptions embedded in its foundation. A critical disability analysis might begin, as I have written elsewhere, from the recognition that:

In Canadian social policy, disability tends to be defined through biomedical and functional criteria. Such a narrow understanding of disablement dictates policy responses that are flawed and often counterproductive, premised upon a fundamental assumption that the problems and/or limitations experienced by persons with disabilities are a direct consequence of their individual impairments. Disabled peoples’ experience of profound disadvantage in the realm of housing, for example, will be understood not as an issue of pressing social policy, but as an unfortunate medical problem.

In other words, the kinds of instrumental and social support required by many low-income disabled persons are broadly understood within an ableist regime to constitute “special” needs. Having such needs is considered “extraordinary”, contrasting with the “ordinary” needs of nondisabled citizens and citizens with disabilities who are self-reliant. By extension, providing for those “extraordinary” needs will be deemed inherently burdensome; and capping expenditure in the service of such needs therefore seen as pragmatic and fiscally responsible.

All public investment, whether on infrastructure or social programming, follows a calculus of attributed value. An enterprise is prohibitively “too costly” if its payoff is seen as disproportionately low. State governments will deploy massive funds in response to certain kinds of extraordinary need, for example when required for defence against insurgency, natural disaster and precedent-setting lawsuits. But those same governments will be considerably more conservative about expenditure that does not advance or protect their own material interests. This appears to be especially true when those who stand to benefit from public expenditure have been cast as a devalued and marginalized social minority.

For the purpose of illustration, we can draw from Goodley’s framing of ableism to develop a counterfactual narrative: imagine a government policy that compelled able, autonomous and productive citizens to seek housing indefinitely in the homes of parents, siblings or friends, or alternatively to move away from their communities into isolated institutional settings where all of life’s routines – including bathing, eating, socializing and sleeping – are subject to administrative control. Such a policy, no matter how justifiable in purely economic terms, would most certainly violate community standards by which even the notion of “poor houses” for the indigent, let alone for the “ideal citizen”, is today fully abhorrent.

It is only when the persons subjected to such deprivation stand far removed from the ableist ideal of capable and productive citizen, and then are branded with the stereotypes and stigma attached to their

diminished status – only then can curtailments of liberty, enforced isolation and constraints upon choice of lifestyle be made to seem, at least superficially, reasonable and necessary. My point is that in choosing to deny *Small Option homes* spaces to persons who meet the qualifying criteria, policy makers are expressing an ableist ideology that effectively creates a class of low income citizens with disability-related support needs as somehow “beyond the pale” of social investment.

### c. The policy’s ableist implications

There are many ways in which the scenario illustrates how pervasively the ableist notion of worthy citizen is expressed in the government’s refusal to provide suitable housing supports to persons who meet its own eligibility criteria for this assistance.

For example, as the wait list grows, the problem comes to appear more and more intractable. People with substantial needs for individual support languish in unsuitable living conditions. Simultaneously, their needs, wrongly framed as “extraordinary”, are made ever more extraordinary by accumulation. The ableist expectation of self-reliance and resourcefulness first situates the person with disability-related dependencies as a problem case, and over time, an arbitrarily constructed “problem” reaches crisis proportions. What begins in a faulty characterization of human need as undue burden, repeated with every new application for support, soon becomes a ghetto – individuals are dehumanized as numbers on a list, dormant case files, and institutional *bed fillers*. The larger this group becomes, the more its framing as the site of the problem is reinforced – when likes are grouped together, what makes them alike is emphasized. Individuality is lost, and the ableist presumption that created the group affirms itself. The “problem” of housing a large number of persons with complex needs is undeniably a problem, but it is a problem arising not from the severity of people’s impairments, but from the severity of ableist attribution and neglect.

By diverting persons who would qualify for support if it were available to institutional confinement, euphemistically called “congregate care facilities”, the government appears to be asserting equivalency with *Small Option homes*. But as I have made clear earlier in this report, an institutional placement bears no objective resemblance to a small and secure neighbourhood home; having an assigned bed, lamp, television and care plan does not constitute a lifestyle. But for persons who fall far short of the ableist ideal, the largesse of the state will have its limits. People who make no contribution to the wealth of the province have, it seems, a lesser claim upon its resources. From their place outside the economies of trade and commerce, persons with significant disabilities can be relocated for the sake of expediency and their routines of care can be regularized to maximize the efficiency of personnel who do work, pay taxes and contribute. Those who do not contribute can be housed anywhere, for they are not needed. Because they are not distinguished by their material contributions, they are not regarded as individuals with distinct personalities, styles and aspirations. Just as they themselves are blurred together, so are the housing arrangements that minimally meet their needs. Moreover, since their deviance from ableist norms is framed as intrinsically biomedical, the logic of institutional placement is reinforced – *congregate care facilities* are invariably infused with medical culture.

It is of course notable that some persons with disabilities – i.e. those who do not have dependencies that require supportive care – fare better in the scenario provided. These persons, like nondisabled persons

who live in poverty and require income support, also fall short of the ableist ideal, but in ways that constitute a lesser “burden” upon the province. Members of these groups, once deemed eligible for social assistance, are not compelled to wait for assistance, to seek it elsewhere, to relocate in order to receive it, or to relinquish all choices about where and how they will live. While the receipt of social assistance comes with some measure of indignity and regulatory caprice, its recipients are spared the most punitive assaults of an ableist regime. Ableism operates by degree. Persons with disabilities who are capable of “passing” in the ableist world by performing the expected self-care routines of daily life will be rewarded by a higher ranking than persons with dependencies that render them the antithesis of the ideal citizen.

#### 4. Concluding reflection

The situation described in this scenario condemns too many Nova Scotians who require the kind of supportive housing made possible by *Small Option* homes to lifetimes of missed opportunity for participation, contribution, security and well-being. In this way the story of ableism is reinforced and perpetuated. While persons who live in their aging parents’ basements, or in abusive cohabitation arrangements, or far down the corridors of institutional abandonment, may acutely feel themselves robbed of dignity and belonging, they are unlikely – for decades it seems – to marshal the resources to resist ableism’s powerful grip.

I recognize that the embrace of an anti-ableist perspective in examining established social policy norms requires the significant effort of unmooring from deeply entrenched habits of thought regarding the nature of disability and the place of disabled citizens. It is my firm opinion, however, that not only is such effort warranted, but it is essential if we are to reconcile our collective and generous intuitions about inclusion with the messy truth of disabled people’s lived experience in Canada.

I hope that you will not hesitate to call upon me if I can be helpful with any further elaboration.

What follows is a brief outline of works cited in this opinion.

*Catherine Frazee*

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Professor Emerita, School of Disability Studies

## WORKS CITED

Bach, M. (2017). Needs and Circumstances of People with Disabilities, those with Intellectual Disabilities and Government Response in Nova Scotia. Expert Opinion prepared for a Nova Scotia Human Rights Board of Inquiry: MacLean Delaney, Cain and the Disability Rights Coalition v. Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia Human Rights Board of Inquiry.

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Prince, M.J. (2012). Canadian disability activism and political ideas: in and between neo-liberalism and social liberalism. *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*, 1.1.

Ryerson University, School of Disability Studies. "What Is Disability Studies?" <http://www.ryerson.ca/disabilitystudies/> (Accessed November 30, 2017).

## APPENDIX A – THE SCENARIO

For the purpose of this report, you may assume all the facts as stated to be accurate.

- 1) At around the time (1995) that the Province of Nova Scotia assumed responsibility for the provision of social assistance then being provided by municipalities—including what was then called the Community Supports for Adults Program (i.e., residential supports and services for persons with disabilities), it imposed a “Moratorium” on the approval of new/additional Small Option home capacity.

Small Option homes sprung up in the 1970s in Nova Scotia in response to the beginning of the de-institutionalization movement and were homes for up to three (later four ) persons in which supportive, community-based housing and supports were provided to low-income persons with disabilities who required supports and services. Staff would be present as needed. The Province’s moratorium meant that people with disabilities, who were currently in a low-income situation, and who were then living in community-based supportive housing, were permitted to continue to live in their homes but new applicants for such housing, and their families, were faced with the existing capacity. With limited exceptions, the Moratorium on the approval of small option homes continued for many years and, broadly, can be said to still be in place.

- 2) One immediate result of the 1995 Moratorium was the need for a wait list made up of people who had been found to be both medically and financially eligible by the Department of Community Services both for supportive housing. Specifically, any wait list that may have existed before the Moratorium continued to expand over the years and, currently, many hundreds of people found to have been eligible are on a wait list. Two thirds of those on the waitlist are currently receiving supports from the Province which are either inappropriate/overly restrictive or unnecessary and want a more suitable living situation. The other third are people who are eligible but not receiving any supports from the Province—they are often simply living with ill or elderly parents, other family or friends.
- 3) In addition, for many decades, Nova Scotia has relied on large congregate care ‘institutions’ or ‘facilities’ where persons with disabilities who are unable to live independently have been ‘placed’. These institutions can be large Residential Rehabilitation Centres—often located in remote or rural settings. They also include smaller congregate care facilities such as Residential Care Facilities, or Adult Residential Centres. Part of the reliance on these institutions has meant that the Province would work on its wait list by ‘placing’ people where a ‘bed’ happened to be available in an institution—frequently this would be hundreds of miles away from family and friends. In the past decade or so, many of the people still residing in institutions/facilities are on wait lists, awaiting transfers to small option homes in their own communities.

For a person living in an institution, an important part of living in a congregate care institution is living a very structured routine and needing to adapt to the priorities of the institution.

- 4) The Moratorium and related provincial government policy regarding supportive housing more generally has resulted in a situation in which people with disabilities without independent income but who want and need community-based supportive housing in a Small Options home are often told that there is nothing available currently and that they must either continue living with parents who, themselves, may be ill or elderly—or both, or with other family or they must live in a congregate care institution.

In contrast, people in poverty, either without disabilities or who have disabilities but who can live independently in the community are able to apply for and receive social assistance immediately without facing a wait list and are able to find their own accommodation.



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## **Professor Emerita -- Ryerson University, School of Disability Studies**

### **Education, Research, Consulting and Mediation Services in Equity, Human Rights and Disability Issues (Since 1996)**

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

##### **Ryerson University, School of Disability Studies**

Professor Emerita	Since 2010
Professor of Distinction	2004 to 2010
Co-Director, Institute for Disability Studies	2001 to 2010

##### **Ontario Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal**

Vice- Chair	1992 to 1997
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##### **Ontario Human Rights Commission**

Chief Commissioner	1989 to 1992
Commissioner	1985 to 1989

##### **West Park Hospital**

Research Fellow	1997 to 1999
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##### **Amnesty International, Canadian Section**

Co-ordination Officer	1988 to 1989
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#### **EDUCATION**

- University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario  
Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution (1996)
- St. Stephen's House, Toronto, Ontario  
Interpersonal Mediation (1997)
- Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Faculty of Law (1976/77)
- Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario  
Bachelor of Arts, English and Linguistics (1973/76)

## AWARDS and PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTIONS

- Order of Canada, Officer, 2015
- Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LL.D.), McMaster University, 2016
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2012
- Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LL.D.), Dalhousie University, 2009
- Doctor of Letters, honoris causa (D.Litt.), University of New Brunswick, 2002
- Ryerson University Innovative Teaching Award, 2009
- Adjunct Professor, York University, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Critical Disability Studies
- City of Toronto Access, Equity and Human Rights Award, 2008
- J.W. McConnell Curricular Innovation Award, Ryerson University, 2007
- Alliance Atlantis Award of Distinction, 2007
- Center for Independent Living Founders Award, Toronto, 2006
- Great Canadian Women of 2006 (Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario)
- Joan Meister Award for Outstanding Contribution to Disability Arts & Culture, 2004
- Bertha Wilson Visiting Professorship, Dalhousie University School of Law, 2001
- Honourable Mention, National Media Awards, 2001
- Cultural Journalism Residency, Banff Centre for the Arts, July, 1999
- Finalist, Canadian Women's Mentor Awards, 1999
- Distinguished Visitor, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law, 1998
- Honourary Lifetime Membership, Advocacy Resource Centre for Handicapped, 1995
- A. D. Dunton Alumni Award, Carleton University, 1990
- G.O. Forsyth Essay Award, Dalhousie University, 1977
- Carleton University Senate Medal, Carleton University, 1976

## PROFESSIONAL and PUBLIC SERVICE

- Member, Federal External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to *Carter v. Canada* (2016)
- Expert Witness on risks that physician-assisted dying poses for people with disabilities for the Supreme Court of British Columbia (*Carter*, 2011) and for the Québec Superior Court (*LeBlanc*, 2012)
- Expert Witness on the problems and issues that people with physical disabilities in Canada confront with regard to housing for the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (*Tanudjaja et al.*, 2011)
- Expert Witness on accessibility and disability disadvantage as these concepts apply in the exercise of a citizen's right to vote for the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (*Hughes*, 2009)
- Expert Witness on critical disability analysis and social context theory before the Federal Court of Canada (*Chesters*, 2002);
- Expert Witness on equality, human rights, disability issues and disability disadvantage at Boards of Inquiry appointed under the Ontario Human Rights Code: *Elliot v. Epp Centres* (1993); *Quesnel v. Eidt* (1995), unreported; *Lewis v. York Region Board of Education* (1996); *Brock v. Tarrant Film Factory* and *Turnbull v. Famous Players* (2000, 2001)
- Expert Witness on human rights and disability disadvantage before the McMaster University Anti-Discrimination Tribunal (*Rao v. McMaster University*, 2006).

- Expert Witness on equality for persons with disabilities and the 'dignity of risk' before the Supreme Court of Ontario (Poynter v. St. Vincent Hospital, 1988).
- Expert Witness on violence against disabled women for Ministry of Attorney General (2000)
- Advisor, Vulnerable Persons Standard ((2016-17)
- Planning Advisor, Council of Canadian Academies, Medical Assistance in Dying Reviews (2017)
- Founding Member, Project Value (2016-17)
- Special Advisor, Values & Ethics Task Force, Canadian Association for Community Living (2010-2016)
- Member, Disability Arts Strategy Working Group, Canada Council for the Arts (2010-11)
- Chair, Values & Ethics Task Force, Canadian Association for Community Living (until 2010)
- Director, Abilities Arts Festival (until 2010)
- Director, Women's Legal Education & Action Fund (LEAF) (until 2007)
- Artistic Collaborator, "Shameless: the Art of Disability", NFB Feature Documentary, 2006
- Member, Advisory Committee for the Inclusive and Accessible Canada initiative.
- Board Of Directors, Canadian Association for Community Living (2001-2005)
- Board of Directors, Canadian Abilities Foundation (2001-2004)
- Equality Advisory Committee, Disabled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada
- Advisory Committee, Society for Disability Arts and Culture (2001-2004)
- Advisory Panel, Canadian Network for Inclusive Cultural Exchange (2003)
- Study Panel, Law Commission of Canada, Project on "Recognizing and Supporting Close Personal Relationships Between Adults"
- Member, Steering Committee, Master in Disability Studies, York University (1999-2002)
- Adjudicator, Media Human Rights Awards, B'nai Brith League for Human Rights (2001)
- Advisory Committee, School of Disability Studies, Ryerson University (1997-2000)
- Chair, Nominations Committee, Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped (2000)
- Human Rights Committee, Council of Canadians with Disabilities (1995-2000)
- Board of Directors, Centre for Independent Living of Toronto (1997-1999)
- Board of Directors, Society for Disability Arts and Culture (1998, 1999)
- Member, Advisory Committee, Human Rights Commission/Tribunal Value for Money Audit, Auditor General of Canada (Ottawa, 1998)
- Member, LEAF National Legal Committee (1994-1998)
- Conference Chair, Positioning for Change: Individualized Funding Symposium (Orillia ON, 1998)
- Moderator, Integration of Persons with Disabilities into the Productive Workforce: Seminar for the International Development Bank (Washington, DC, 1997)
- Guest Editor, Entourage: Special Issue on Disability Pride and Culture, (1997)
- Board of Directors, Roehner Institute (1997)
- Board of Directors, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) (1996/97)
- Executive Co-Chair, LEAF National Legal Committee (1996/97)
- Service Equity Committee, Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators (1994)
- Advisory Committee, Ontario Law Reform Commission (1990/92)
- The Canadian Disability Rights Council (1988/1989)

## **RESEARCH**

- Principal Investigator, *Art/Works: A Pilot Study of Disability, Art and Identity* for Ryerson University, Faculty of Community Services, 2005.

- Co-Chair, *Research Network on Disability and Inclusion Indicators: Values, Ethics and New Technologies Stream*, for Social Development Canada, Office for Disability Issues, 2004-2006.
- Member, What Sorts Network (International Network of researchers and community members with an interest in the ideas and social policy related to human diversity and variation)
- Co-Investigator (with Melanie Panitch, Jason Nolan, Garrick Filewod, Kathryn Church, Alex Bal):
  - *Out from Under: a virtual learning environment*, Ryerson University Learning & Teaching (2010/11)
- Co-Investigator (with Kathryn Church and Melanie Panitch):
  - *Activist Disability History In The Museum: How Do Visitors Respond?*, Ryerson University, 2008-9
  - *Doing Disability at the Bank: Discovering the Work of Informal Learning/Teaching done by Disabled Bank Employees*, for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2002-2007.
  - *New Partnerships for New Times*, for Human Resources Development Canada, since 2004.
  - *In/Out of the Closet: Examining the Life Worlds of Disabled Women through Their Clothing*, for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, since 2005.
  - *Between and Between: An Exploration of movement through Disability and Dance*, for Ryerson University, Faculty of Community Services, since 2005.
  - *Stretch: A Multi-Partner Initiative*, for the Department of Canadian Heritage, 2006.
  - *CultureAll*, for the Department of Canadian Heritage, 2006.
  - *In Profile: Personal Support Workers in Canada*, Human Resources Development Canada, 2003.
- Co-Investigator (with Deborah Stienstra, Harvey Chochinov and Jim Derkson):
  - *Reclaiming Language*, for Canadian Institutes for Health Research, 2008-2009.
- Co-Investigator (with Roxanne Mykitiuk and Joan Gilmour):
  - *The Legal Regulation and Construction of the Gendered Body and of Disability in Canadian Health Law and Policy*, for the National Network on Environments and Women's Health, 1999-2001.
  - *Beyond the Margins of (Dis)Ability: Enabling Women with Disabilities to Achieve Health*, for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, since 2003.
- Co-Investigator (with Beverley Antle):
  - *Untangling the Web: Perceptions of social relationships in school among students with physical disabilities and chronic health conditions and their peers*, for the Bloorview Children's Hospital Foundation, 2001.
  - *Creating a Life of Your Own: Experiences of Transition to Independence among People with Physical Disabilities* for West Park Hospital, Community Living Research Fellowship 1997-1998.
- Collaborator:
  - *Bodies in Translation: Activist Art, Technology, and Access to Life*, SSHRC, 2016-2023.
  - *Disability Ethics: Beyond medical and social-construction models of disability*, for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2008-2010; *A Critical Exploration of the Relationship Between Personnel Support Workers and Ventilator-Users*, for the Ontario Lung Association, 2005; and *Disability-Related Policy and Research Cluster*, for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2004.

## TEACHING

- Course design and instruction, Perspectives in Disability I, **Ryerson University** (2009)
- Course design and instruction, Human Rights & Disability, **Ryerson University** (2009)
- Course design and instruction, Disability & Ethics, **Ryerson University** (Annually, 2005-2010)
- Faculty -- **National Judicial Institute**, Social Context Education Initiative: 2000-2003.

- Course Instructor, Introduction to Disability Studies, **Ryerson University**: (2001/3/4/6).
- Course design & co-instruction, Exhibiting Activist Disability History, **Ryerson** (2007)
- Course design & co-instruction, Introduction to Disability Studies, **Ryerson** (1999-2002).
- Course design & co-instruction, Disability Policy, **Ryerson University**: 2002, 2003.
- Course design and co-instruction, Disability Issues, **Ryerson University**: 2002-3
- Course design and instruction, Human Rights Law, **Dalhousie University**, Faculty of Law, Halifax: 2001 (Bertha Wilson Visiting Professorship)
- Course design & co-instruction, Disability Policy, **Ryerson University**: 2000
- Co-Instructor & Supervisor, Critical Perspectives on Disability, **Laurentian University**: 1999

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Frazee, C., Church, K., Panitch, M., (2016) *Fixing: The Claiming and Reclaiming of Disability History*. In Mobilizing Metaphor: Art, Culture and Disability Activism in Canada, Kelly, C. and Orsini, M. eds., UBC Press, Vancouver.
- Frazee, C. (2016). *The Last Chapter*. Ottawa Life Magazine
- Frazee, C. (2016) *"The Vulnerable": Who Are They?* Canadian Virtual Hospice, 2016
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- Deputant, Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Submission on Bill 107, Ontario Human Rights Code Amendment Act (Queen's Park, 2006)
- Author, *Exile from the China Shop: Cultural Injunction and Disability Policy* – Chapter in Disability and Social Policy in Canada, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Mary Ann McColl, Lyn Jongbloed, eds. Captus Press, 2006
- Co-Author (with Roxanne Mykitiuk and Joan Gilmour), *Now You See Her, Now You Don't: How Law Shapes Disabled Women's Experience of Exposure, Surveillance, and Assessment in the Clinical Encounter* – Chapter in Critical Disability Theory: Essays in Philosophy, Politics, Policy and Law. Devlin, R. & Pothier D., Eds., UBC Press, 2006.
- Co-Author (with K. Church, T. Luciani, M. Panitch & P. Seeley), *"Dressing Corporate Subjectivities: Learning what to wear to the Bank"* – Chapter in Work Subjectivity and Learning: Understanding Learning Through Working Life. Billett, S., Somerville, M., and Fenwick, T. (Eds.) Springer, Netherlands, 2006.
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- Author, *Disability Pride within Disability Performance*, Canadian Theatre Review 122. Spring, 2005.
- Author, *Grotesque Language*. Globe and Mail, March 26, 2005 A18
- Author, *Reflections upon a woman's health*. Globe and Mail, Special Supplement, March 8, 2005
- Author, *Alive: An Exhibition of Artistic Work and Performance by Persons with Disabilities*. Canadian Blind Monitor 19, Winter, 2004
- *"Fugitive from the Laws of Genetic Science: Disability Activist Questions Genomics' Assumptions"*. Feature interview for Genome Canada. GE3LS Vol. 2 No. 3, Spring/Summer 2004
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- Author of *Thumbs Up!: Inclusion, Rights and Equality As Experienced by Youth with Disabilities*, working paper commissioned by the Laidlaw Foundation (2003)
- Author of *Our Citizenship Is on the Rocks* in the Globe and Mail (December 28, 2002).
- Author of *Truth and Consequences: Disability in the Genetic Era* in ARCHTYPE (August, 2002).

- Author of *Intersections: Race, Disability and Activist Culture at Ryerson*, Abilities Magazine, Volume 51, 2002
- Author of *Silent Measures: Disability in the Canadian Biotechnology Strategy*, Research Bulletin, Centers of Excellence for Women's Health, Volume 1 No. 3, Winter 2002
- Author of *The Power of Intense Fragility*, Globe and Mail, January 18, 2002
- Author of *Adult Relationships Involving Disabled Persons in Canadian Statutory Law: Language and Meaning*, Background Paper for the Law Commission of Canada, 2002
- Co-Editor (with Patricia Seeley) *Access to Justice: A Workshop Participants Workbook on Violence against Women with Disabilities and the Deaf Women*, Education Wife Assault, 2002
- Author of *Book Review: A Voice Unheard: The Latimer Case and People with Disabilities*, in Disability & Society, Volume 16, No. 4, 2001 (p. 621)
- Author of *Going to Class Was a Lesson in Life*, in Connections, (Bloorview MacMillan Centre, Winter 2001)
- Author of *Still Life: Reflections on Walking, Running and Standing*, in To Arrive Where You Are: Literary Journalism from The Banff Centre for the Arts, (Banff Centre Press, Banff, 2000). Excerpt later published as *Raíz e impulso*, in Lev Kadima (Mexico), June, 2003.
- Author of *The Long-Term Care Act* in Enhancing the Rights of People with Disabilities, (Accreditation Ontario, 2000)
- Co-author with Patricia Seeley of *Abuse of Children with Disabilities*, (National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Health Canada, August 2000)
- Author of *Body Politics* in Saturday Night Magazine (September 2, 2000)
- Author of *Obscuring Disability: The Pursuit of 'Quality' in the CBS*, in The Gender of Genetic Futures: The Canadian Biotechnology Strategy, Women and Health, Proceedings of a national strategic workshop, York University (September, 2000)
- Author of *Communities for Everyone*, (Canadian Association for Community Living, Toronto, 1999)
- Co-author with Marcia Rioux of *Rights and Freedoms for People with Intellectual Disabilities in Ontario*, in Introduction to Developmental Disabilities in Ontario (Front Porch Publishing, Toronto, 1999).
- Co-Author with Beverley Antle et al., *Creating a Life of Your Own: Experiences of Transition to Independence Among People with Physical Disabilities*. 1999, West Park Hospital: Toronto
- Co-author with Beverly Antle, G. Contaxis, L. Forma, R. Nikou, H. Self, M. Tonack, and K. Yoshida of *A Life Of One's Own: The Transition to Independence* in Abilities (Issue 40, p. 36, Fall, 1999)
- Co-author with Patricia Seeley of *Aftermath: Domestic Abuse Leaves Destruction in Its Wake* in Abilities (Issue 39, Summer, 1999)
- Author of *The Dawning of Disability Culture* in DAWNing: How to Start and Maintain a Group (Disabled Women's Network, Vancouver, 1999).
- Co-author with Marcia Rioux of *The Canadian Framework for Disability Equality Rights* in Disability, DiversAbility and Social Change; (Kluwer Law International, Sydney, Australia, 1999).
- Co-author with Patricia Seeley of *All I Really Need: Safeguarding Children at Risk of Abuse* in Abilities (Issue 38, Spring, 1999)
- Author of *What Does Disability Mean: Human Rights, Public Policy and Disability* in Abilities (Issue 38, Spring, 1999).
- Author of *Balance and Movement*, in Introduction to Disability and Handicap, McColl and Bickenbach, editors (Saunders, London, U.K., 1998).
- Editor, *Consumer Rights for Long Term Care Services*, Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (Toronto, 1998)
- Author of *A Wake-up Call and Our Lives Are Worth Living* in The Tracy Latimer Case: Its Impact on Persons with Disabilities (Council of Canadians with Disabilities, Winnipeg, 1998).
- Co-author with Beverley Antle of *Creating a Life of One's Own: Experiences in Transition to Independence* in Abilities (Issue No. 37, Winter 1998).

- Author of *We Will Survive! Honouring the Memory of Tracy Latimer* in B'yadeinu (Vol. 2, Issue 1, Spring, 1998). Also published in Abilities (Issue No. 33, Winter, 1997).
- Author of *Prideful Culture* and *Editorial: Reflections on Disability Pride and Culture* in Entourage (Vol. 10 No. 2, Summer, 1997).
- Author of *Do State Initiatives Make a Difference?* in Women and the Canadian State (Andrew & Rogers, Editors, McGill/Queens University Press, 1997).
- Author of *True Choice on Assisted Suicide Is Illusory* in The Globe and Mail, May 15, 1996. This article was also published in Disability, Community and Society: Exploring the Links (Roehrer Institute, York University, 1996) and Entourage (Vol. 9 No. 3, Summer 1996).
- Author of *Our Lives Are Worth Living* in ARCHTYPE (August, 1995).
- Author of *Speaking out on Human Rights* in Abilities (Issue No. 18, Spring 1994).
- Author of *Employment Options for the Physically Disabled*, in Health Care, Ethics and Law (Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (1993)
- Co-author with Patricia Seeley of *"Toward Intimacy" Explores Issues of Disability and Intimacy* in The Womanist (Vol. 4, No. 1, Spring 1993).
- Author of *Are We There Yet?* in Empowerment (Resource, Educational and Advocacy Centre for the Handicapped, Ottawa, 1991).
- Author of *Rights to Supportive Housing Affirmed* in entourage (Canadian Association for Community Living, Toronto, 1991).
- Author of *Equality Rights and Aversive Therapy* in The Language of Pain: Perspectives on Behaviour Management, (The G. Allan Roehrer Institute, Toronto, 1988).

## MAJOR CAREER CONTRIBUTIONS

My most significant contribution in recent years was the curation (along with co-curators Melanie Panitch and Kathryn Church) of a groundbreaking exhibition of Canadian disability history entitled "Out from Under: Disability, History and Things to Remember". This exhibit opened on April 16, 2008 at the Royal Ontario Museum where it was featured for three months; a re-mounting of the exhibit took place in February 2010 as part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad. The exhibit had several more showings in Canada before becoming part of the permanent collection of the Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg Manitoba.

Working closely with my co-curators and individual contributors, I developed the interpretive panels which accompany each of 13 installations and which form the central text of the 60-page exhibit catalogue published in April 2008. I took lead responsibility for the development of curatorial and briefing texts related to the exhibit, and for development and coordination of its many accessibility features, which included:

- A rigorous translation of all exhibit texts into American Sign Language, recorded in video podcast format. This work represented a breakthrough in Deaf Cultural content, with interpretation delivered directly by native ASL speakers, who worked meticulously to preserve the poetics and nuanced meanings of the exhibit texts.
- A plain language interpretive guide to the exhibit, presented as a lively and engaging series of conversational dialogues.
- An audio podcast of all exhibit texts, and a carefully crafted description of all visual elements. Descriptive texts were rendered precisely and evocatively, in a way that mirrors the tone and content of each installation.
- Replica artifacts for tactile examination, revealing aspects and features not readily apparent to the naked eye. Designed to enhance the exhibit experience for people with visual impairments, these "touch stations" were also popular among sighted visitors.



As demonstrated by a broad range of publications, keynote addresses & lectures, my major contribution to the field of disability studies was one of working outside silos. I have sought to present critical disability theory in terms that were meaningful to scholars and practitioners working in a broad range of intellectual disciplines (the judiciary, the legal profession, the scientific community, philosophical & ethical theorists, midwives, early childhood educators, social workers, genetic counsellors, social change activists, artists, educators and public servants). My contribution to the profession has aimed for interdisciplinarity and dialogue.

My policy-based contributions have included serving as Expert Witness before the Federal Court of Canada, the Supreme Court of British Columbia, The Québec Superior Court, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and various Boards of Inquiry under the Ontario Human Rights Code. As a former Member of the Equality Rights Committee of the Disabled Women's Network, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, I have assisted in developing legal strategies and instructing counsel in preparation for interventions at the Supreme Court of Canada in several precedent-setting cases of strategic concern to disabled Canadians, notably *Eldridge v. British Columbia* (1997), *Auton v. British Columbia* (2004), and *Council of Canadians with Disabilities v. VIA Rail Canada* (2007).

In the spring of 2006, I played a major role in facilitating constructive dialogue among social justice communities with respect to the highly contentious issue of reform to the Ontario Human Rights Code (Bill 107). My "open letter" to the social justice community was distributed widely, reproduced in numerous print and online publications throughout the disability and human rights community, and quoted extensively in Toronto media reports and by the Attorney General of Ontario, the Honorable Michael Bryant (as reported in Hansard). My feature interview for ARCH Alert sought to provide a historical context for human rights reform initiatives, and was reproduced in its entirety in a number of publications and web-based resource centres, including the Community Legal Education Ontario Network and Straight Goods.

As former Chair of the Values & Ethics Task Force of the Canadian Association for Community Living, I advised the Association in responding to issues, events and developments that raise significant ethical questions or that undermine or jeopardize the position of people with intellectual disabilities as equal and valued citizens. This work involved maintaining a watching brief upon violations of the rights of disabled Canadians and overseeing the development and implementation of media, policy, advocacy and litigation responses. Particular attention in recent years focused upon the ethical and legal implications for people with disabilities of euthanasia, selective prenatal screening and other genetic technologies.

In my role as Co-Director of the Ryerson RBC Institute for Disability Studies, a primary focus of my work was the articulation and development of a focus on Disability Arts & Culture -- a focus for which Ryerson University became widely recognized as a leader in Canada and internationally. In part, this involved assuming primary responsibility for producing the Institute's 'signature' events, *Art with Attitude*, *Crip Cabaret* and *Writers Reading Disability* as well as a variety of other presentations by disabled writers, performers and cultural contributors. In cultivating audience engagement and reflection through artist dialogues, public lectures, research and writing in this area, I sought to foster broader public recognition of the artistic contributions of disabled artists and appreciation of their cultural significance within the larger Canadian social, political and ethical landscape. Representations of disability that break free from colonized, sentimental and/or stereotype-driven framings are of significant force in the emancipatory struggles of disabled citizens as they gain control of words, images and ideas that have historically worked against them. It is for these contributions that I was honoured in 2004 to receive the Joan Meister KickstART award "for outstanding contribution to Disability Arts & Culture" and in 2007 with the Alliance Atlantis Award of Distinction. In 2007 I hosted an inaugural meeting of the National Network on Disability Arts and Culture, of which I am a founding member. As an

artistic producer and writer, I am one of five disabled artists profiled in the National Film Board of Canada feature-length documentary, "Shameless", directed by Bonnie Sher Klein and released commercially in 2006.

In addition to several op-ed pieces published in the Globe & Mail and numerous broadcast and print interviews, I have presented guest lectures in faculties of law, medicine and genetic counseling at the University of Toronto, McMaster, York, Western, McGill, Dalhousie and Mount Allison Universities. Notable presentations include: a public dialogue on citizenship with Michael Ignatieff; a national strategic workshop on the Canadian Biotechnology Strategy; the Queens University Cunningham Memorial Lecture; a public forum for CBC Sounds like Canada; keynotes for the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies; a National Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Parliamentary Report, Obstacles; a National Conference on Social Inclusion; a Genome Canada GE3LS National Symposium and panels hosted by the National Judicial Institute; Canadian Bar Association; Ontario Superior Court of Justice; Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences and Hospital for Sick Children.

## Selected Lectures, Keynote Addresses & Presentations:

### Special Public Lectures and Presentations:

- *Keynote address* – Wingspan Symposium, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, June 2017
- *Keynote address* – Canadian Association for Disability Studies Congress, Toronto, June 2017
- *Richard B Splane Lecture in Social Policy* – University of British Columbia, Vancouver, November 2016
- *Convocation Address* – McMaster University, Hamilton, June 2015
- *Disability, Dignity and Medical Aid in Dying* – The Nova Scotia Health Ethics Network, Halifax, 2015
- *Own the Problem; Ramp the Podium* – Keynote, Accessibility Showcase, Vancouver, March 2010
- *Disability in a Dangerous Time* -- University of Toronto, 2009
- *Shameless: the Keynote* -- National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, 2009
- *The Future of Independent Living* -- Keynote for Independent Living Canada, Toronto 2009
- *Reflections on the Closure of Ontario's Institutions* -- Ryerson University, 2009
- *Convocation Address* -- Dalhousie University, Halifax, 2009
- *Transforming Rights into Action* -- Keynote for Global Forum on Inclusion, Ottawa, 2008
- *Opening Ceremony & Closing Ceremony* -- Out From Under at the Royal Ontario Museum, 2008
- *The Problem of Separate but Equal* -- Keynote for the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies, Toronto, 2008
- *What Does It Mean to Care?* -- Keynotes, National Retreat for Women, Victoria BC, 2007
- *Independent Living: An Autobiographical Travelogue* – Center for Independent Living in Toronto, AGM, 2006
- *Resistance* -- Keynote, Student Public Interest Network Legal Action (SPINLAW), Osgoode Hall (2006)
- *Assisting Suicide* -- Debate with Svend Robinson, St. Lawrence Centre Forum, Toronto, February, 2005
- *Leadership? A Personal Narrative* -- Leadership Mount Allison, Mount Allison University, October, 2003
- *Deadly Serious: Disability, Disadvantage and Unnatural Death* -- York University, 2003
- *Situating Disability in the New Genetics* -- Cunningham Memorial Lecture, Queens University, March, 2003
- *Dialogue on Citizenship* with Michael Ignatieff -- Ryerson University, December, 2002
- *Truth and Consequences: Disability in the Genetic Era* -- ARCH AGM, Toronto, May, 2002
- *The Troubled Triad: Disability, Medicine and Genetic Science* -- Hospital for Sick Children, March, 2002
- *Disability and Human Rights in the Post-Genome Era* -- Dalhousie University, Faculty of Law, February 2000
- *Under the Microscope: Dissecting Law and Medicine in the Disability Rights Laboratory* -- Health Law Institute Seminar Series, Dalhousie University, February 2000
- *People with Disabilities, Human Rights, and the Threat of New Bio-Technologies* -- for the Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement, Ideas and Information Series, April 2000.
- *Let Me Be Me* -- for the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy, Oakville, Ontario, October 1999.
- *Untold Harms: Casualties in the Search for Human Perfection* – for Vision Television (Voices of Vision Commemorative Lecture Series, Winnipeg, October 1998). Lecture and interviews aired on March 2, 1999.
- *Reasonably Equal: Reflections from a Disability Rights Perspective* – for the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, (Person's Day Breakfast, Winnipeg, October 1998).
- *Waiting for Clearance: Personal Reflections on Disability Discrimination and Employment* – for Statistics Canada (Access Awareness Week, Ottawa, May 1998).
- *A Tree Falls in the Forest... A Disability Perspective on 'Compassionate' Death* – for the University of Manitoba (Distinguished Visitor Lecture Series, Winnipeg, February 1998).

**Academic Presentations:**

- *Disability, Embodiment and Voice* (with K Church) – University of Toronto, Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science, 2011 & 2012.
- *This igsibit was fun* (with M. Panitch & K. Church) – Ryerson University, Early Childhood Education Symposium, May 2010
- *Ethics of Prenatal Screening* – Ryerson University, Midwifery Care Intensive (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)
- *Teaching As Discovery* -- Ryerson University Learning & Teaching Conference, 2008
- *Disability, Identity & Culture* – York University, M.A. Program in Critical Disability Studies (2005, 2006)
- *Taking By Storm: Disability, Resistance And Culture* -- University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work (2005)
- *Cyborg in the China Shop: Disability, Equality & Aesthetic Injunction*, McGill University, Faculty of Law (2004)
- *Why Monsters Matter*, Centre for Health Studies, York University (2004)
- *Disability, Medicine and Genetic Science*, University of Toronto Genetic Counseling Program (2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)
- "Making a Space for 'Art that Bites Back'", Society for Disability Studies, Bethesda Ma. (2003)
- Critical Disability Theory, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (*The Learned's*) (2003)
- Social Work Practice in Health, Illness & Disability Lectures, University of Toronto (2000, winter & fall 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006)
- Doing Disability in Theory and Everyday Life, OISE, University of Toronto (2001, 2002, 2003)
- Human Genome Bridge Week, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law (2001, 2002, 2003)
- Disability, Medicine and Genetic Science, University of Toronto (2001, 2003)
- Disability Studies: Unexpected Guest in Health Law Discourse -- University of Alberta (Edmonton, 2002)
- How Disability Understands Medicine, McMaster University, School of Medicine (2001)
- Disability and the Holocaust, Panel Presentation, Ryerson University (Toronto, 2001)
- Disability and the New Genetics, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law (2001)
- Everyday Ethics, Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, 2001)
- Exceptionality in Human Learning Lectures, University of Toronto (1998, 2001, 2002)
- Human Rights Symposium, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law (2001)
- Theorizing Disabilities, OISE, University of Toronto (2001)
- Access Awareness Lecture, Queens University (2001)
- Redefining Health, Ontario Medical Students Weekend, University of Western Ontario (2000)
- Midwifery and Disability Lecture, McMaster University (Hamilton, 1998, 2000)
- Social Aspects of Illness Lecture, McMaster University (Hamilton, 1998/1999)
- Research Roundtable in Disability and Public Policy, Roeher Institute (Toronto, 1997/1998)
- Administrative Law Guest Lecture, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law (Winnipeg, 1998)
- Legal Studies Dinner Lecture, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law (Winnipeg, 1998)
- Faculty Seminar, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law (Winnipeg, 1998)
- Lectures on Disability Issues, Ryerson University (Toronto, 1996/1997/1998)
- Disability Studies Lecture, York University (Toronto, 1998)
- Research in Disability and Public Policy, Roeher Institute, York University (1997)
- President's Breakfast, Carleton University (Ottawa, 1991)
- Canadian Association of Law Libraries (Ottawa, 1991)
- Management Seminar, Ministry of the Solicitor General (Toronto, 1990)
- University of Windsor Law School (Windsor, 1990)
- Institute of Public Administration of Canada (Toronto, 1990)
- Ontario Labour Law Sub-Section, Canadian Bar Association (Toronto, 1990)

- A.D. Dunton Alumni Award lecture, Carleton University (Ottawa, 1990)
- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ) (Toronto, 1990)

**Presentations and Submissions to Government:**

- Central Agencies Portfolio, All Staff Meeting (Ottawa, December 2009)
- Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Submission on Bill 107, Ontario Human Rights Code Amendment Act (Queen's Park, 2006)
- Accommodation Workshop, Ministry of Education and Training, Colleges & Universities (Toronto, 2005)
- Leadership Training, Ministry of Education and Training, Colleges & Universities (Toronto, 2003)
- Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs -- Bill S-5 (1997)
- Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Status of Disabled Persons (Ottawa, 1994)
- Standing Committee on Government Agencies (Queen's Park, 1994 and 1989)
- Ontario Human Rights Code Review Task Force (Toronto, 1992)
- Committee of the Legislature dealing with Police Services Act (Queen's Park, 1991)
- Select Committee on Confederation (Queen's Park, 1991)
- Mayor's Committee on Race Relations (Toronto, 1990)

**Conference Presentations:**

- *Envisioning Equity in the Canadian Arts Ecology* – Joint Session Hosted by the Canadian Public Arts Funders and Prismatic Festival (Halifax, 2012)
- *Realizing the Right to Live in the Community* Closing Plenary With Michael Bach – Canadian Association for Community Living (Halifax, 2011)
- *The Problem of Separate but Equal* –Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario conference (Toronto, 2010)
- *Feminist Disability Rant* -- Feminist Perspectives on Human Rights Conference, Ottawa, 2009
- *(Ad)Dressing Power* – Panel Presentation for Fashion Forward, Ontario College of Art and Design, 2009.
- *Doing Disability at the Bank* -- Innovative Workforce Symposium, Toronto 2007
- *Toward Robust Citizenship* – Moderator, End Exclusion Forum (Ottawa, 2006)
- *Who is Accommodating Who, and to What Purpose?* -- Pre-Conference Workshop, CASHRA (Fredericton, 2006)
- *Closing Keynote*, Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (Fredericton, 2006)
- *Big Yellow Taxi: Disabled People and the Human Genome Project* – B.C. Justice Institute (Vancouver, 2006)
- *Contributing to Culture* -- CAILC National Kick Off , UN International Day of Disabled Persons (Ottawa, 2005)
- *Disability & Law: Rethinking Paradigms* – International Conference on Training of Judiciary (Ottawa, 2004)
- *Borders of Disability* – for Canadian Bar Association Annual Meeting, Judges Forum (Winnipeg, 2004)
- *Whose Helix Is It Anyway?* –Panel Presentation, GE3LS Symposium (Vancouver, 2004)
- *... And Still We Rise* – Keynote, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario Conference (Toronto, 2004)
- *Ryerson Equity Conference* – Keynote Address (Toronto, 2004)
- *The Future of Individual Rights* for Community Living Ontario (Toronto, 2003)
- *Different Abilities, Equal Access To Justice* for Superior Court of Justice (Ontario) Seminar (Toronto, 2003)
- *Perspectives on Social Inclusion Symposium* for The Laidlaw Foundation (Toronto, 2003)
- *AccessABILITY Month Launch* for Georgian College (Barrie, Ontario, 2003)
- *Disability Studies & Health Law* for University of Alberta Health Law Institute (Edmonton, 2002)
- *Access to the Courts for People with Disabilities* for Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench and Court Of Appeal for New Brunswick (St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 2002)
- *Crown Attorney Training Seminar* for Issues Related to Violence Against Women (Toronto, 2002)
- *Person-to-person, Rights Workshop* – Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (Orillia, 2002)
- *KickstART! Celebration of Disability Art and Culture* (Vancouver, 2001)
- *Towards a Vision of Social Inclusion*, Canadian Council on Social Development (Ottawa, 2001)

- *Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Symposium* (London, 2001)
- *Protecting Lives and Life*, Alberta Association for Community Living National Conference (Edmonton, 2000)
- *Not Dead Yet*, Alberta Association for Community Living National Family Conference (Edmonton, 2000)
- *Oasis or Mirage? Measuring Our Progress toward Equality for Disabled Citizens*, Accreditation Ontario Annual Conference (Toronto, 2000)
- *Creating a Life of One's Own: Experiences of Transition among People with Physical Disabilities* with Anle, B., Nikou, R., Yoshida, K., Self, H., Tonack, M., Forma, L., Contaxis, G. Tri-Joint Congress (Toronto, 2000)
- *Collaborative Research Approaches for Investigating Disability Issues* with Forma, L., King, A., Antle, B., Tonack, M., Yoshida, K., Renwick, R. Tri-Joint Congress (Toronto, 2000).
- *Moving Parts*, Canadian Seating and Mobility Conference (Toronto, 2000)
- *The Canadian Biotechnology Strategy: Assessing Its Effects on Women and Health*, York University (Toronto, 2000)
- *The Unfinished Agenda*, LEAF National Forum (Vancouver, 1999)
- *Bioethics, Genetics and Biotechnology: Promise or Threat?* (Edmonton, 1999)
- *The Difficulty of Being 'Difficult'*, Reena Foundation International Conference (Toronto, 1999)
- *To Be or Not To Be*, Inclusion International XII Congress (The Hague, 1998)
- *Judging in a Diverse Society*, National Judicial Institute (Toronto, 1998)
- *End of Life Decisions*, Canadian HIV/AIDS Skills Building Symposium (Toronto, 1998)
- *Annual General Meeting*, Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (Orillia, ON, 1998)
- *Annual Caregivers Conference*, Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (Orillia, ON, 1998)
- *Easter Seals Youth Conference*, Community Advocacy Workshop (Collingwood ON, 1998)
- *Cultural Awareness – Society of Ontario Adjudicators & Regulators* (Queen's Park, 1997 & 1998)
- *Disability Rights in Canada – Society for the Study of Social Problems* (Toronto, 1997)
- *Assessing Credibility in Cross-Cultural Context*, Conference of Ontario Boards & Agencies (Toronto, 1996)
- *Strategic Consultation on Disability Litigation*, Court Challenges Program (Ottawa, 1995)
- *Self-Managed Attendant Care in Ontario*, Partners in Independence (Toronto, 1995)
- Conference Chair, *Becoming the Best: A Conference On Enhancing Employment Opportunities For Canadians With Severe Disabilities* (Toronto, 1994)
- *Service Equity in Administrative Justice System*, Conference of Ontario Boards and Agencies (Toronto, 1994)
- *Partners for Independence: Models that Work*, Rehabilitation International (Atlanta, 1993)
- *Independence '92* (Vancouver, 1992)
- *Using Equality Legislation & Precedent*, Legal Education & Action Fund (Ottawa, 1992)
- *Flying on My Own: A Conference for Consumers of Attendant Services* (London, 1990)
- *Human Rights and Race Relations*, Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission (Halifax, 1990)
- International Organization of Human Rights Agencies (IOHRA) (Jacksonville, 1990)
- Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies (CASHRA) (Victoria, 1989)
- *Accommodation, Obligation and Employment Equity*, 4th Canadian Congress on Rehabilitation (Toronto, 1989)

#### **Other Events and Consultations:**

- Book Launch for "Finding My Voice", by Jane Field and Don Smith (Toronto, 2010)
- Panel Discussion of Mourning Dove by Emil Sher, for l'Arche Toronto (2009)
- *Inclusive Teaching Practice – Facilitator*, Professional Development Workshop, Ontario College of Art and Design (2006)
- *Staging Liberation: Disability Arts & Culture – Canada Council for the Arts* (Ottawa, 2005)
- *Disability & Culture: An Artful Conversation – RBC Government & Community Affairs Dinner* (2005)
- *Staging Liberation – Ontario Arts Council* (Toronto, 2005)
- *Hustling Disability Arts – Disability Arts Summit* (Toronto, 2005)

- *Violence, Remembrance & Disability* -- Panel Presentation, Ryerson University (2004)
- *KickstART II Festival of Disability Arts & Culture* -- Keynote Address (Vancouver, 2004)
- *Mad Pride Weekend and Psychiatric Survivor Pride Day*, Toronto, 2003
- *National Judicial Institute Social Context Education Faculty Development Programs* (St. Andrews, New Brunswick and Québec City, Québec, 2001; Lakeside, Prince Edward Island, 2002)
- *Social Context Education Project* -- Judicial Education Consultation with Judges, Academics and Community Leaders, National Judicial Institute (Aylmer, 2000)
- *Human Rights Linkages Initiative* -- National Consultation hosted by the Hon. Lois M. Wilson, Senate of Canada (Ottawa, 1999)
- *Diversity, Rights and the Law* -- Centre for Independent Living (Toronto, 2000)
- *Advocacy for Self and Others* -- Easter Seals Teen Advocacy Workshop (Sudbury, 1999)
- *Women with Disabilities & Access to Justice* -- Ontario Court of Justice, Provincial Division (Toronto, 1998)
- *Women with Disabilities & Access to Justice* -- Ontario Crown Attorneys' Association (London, 1998)
- *Operation Rainbow* -- West Park Hospital Foundation (Toronto, 1998)
- *Truth, Lies and Videotape* -- Ontario Insurance Commission (Toronto, 1997)
- *Disability Culture in Canada* -- Roehner Institute Research Symposium (Toronto, 1997)
- Disability, Feminism and the Duty to Accommodate (Vancouver, 1997)
- *ALIVE!* -- Metropolitan Access and Equity Exhibition of Disability Culture (Toronto, 1997)
- Vigil for Tracy Latimer, Toronto (1995 and 1997)
- ARCH Awards Ceremony, Toronto (1995)
- Coalition for Equal Families Rally (Toronto, 1994)
- Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (Toronto, 1992)
- DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN) Canada (Toronto, 1990)
- The Niagara Centre for Independent Living (St. Catharines, 1990)
- Disabled People for Employment Equity (Toronto, 1989)