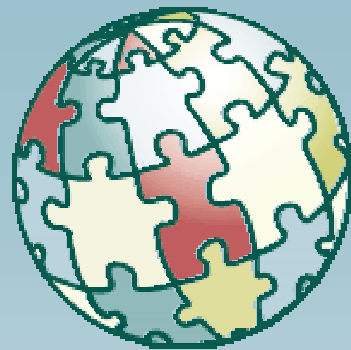


THE MONTRÉAL INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION ON INCLUSION

June 5th, 2001

By the International Congress on Inclusion by Design.
Montréal, Québec, Canada



“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article # 1

Equitable access to all arenas of life is the pre-requisite for universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of people.

Striving towards an inclusive society for all is the essence of sustainable social development.

The international community, with the leadership of the United Nations, has recognized the need for additional guarantees of access for certain groups.

Intergovernmental Declarations have raised the international voice to enlist, in partnership, governments, labour and civil society to advance inclusive policies and practices.

The International Conference “Inclusion by Design” convened by the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW) calls upon governments, business and labour as well as civil society to commit and advance inclusive design of all environments, products and services.

1. The broad objective of this partnership is to identify and implement sustainable, safe, accessible, affordable and usable lifestyle solutions with the participation of everyone.
2. This will require intersectoral, interdisciplinary, interactive planning and design strategies that include all people.
3. Accessible and inclusive design of environments, products and services increases efficiency, reduces overlap, results in financial savings and contributes to the development of cultural, economic and social capital.
4. All sectors of society derive benefits from inclusion and are responsible for the promotion and advancement of inclusive planning and design.
5. The Conference emphasizes the importance of the role of governments in ensuring, facilitating and monitoring the transparent implementation of inclusive policies, programs and practices.
6. The Conference urges that the principles of inclusive design be incorporated in the curricula of all education and training programs.
7. Follow-up action from this conference should support the ongoing partnerships and solution-oriented engagement between governments, business, labour and community at all levels.