

# PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES: A SNAPSHOT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADA



3.8 million or 1 in 7 Canadians aged 15 years and older reported having a disability in 2012.



The number of Canadians living with disabilities is expected to grow over the next 13 years at nearly double the speed of the whole population.



Disability can take many forms: visible and invisible, and can occur at birth or later in life, including age-related disabilities.



## ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

People living with disabilities contribute about 14% of Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) annually. This figure could increase by \$16.8 billion by 2030 if people living with disabilities faced fewer barriers to employment, and the number of people living with disabilities in the workforce increased by just 15%.



## SPORTING GLORY

Canada's athletes at the Winter Paralympics have won 163 medals since 1976, and has enabled Canada to place in the top 3 countries in the overall medal standings since the Winter Paralympics in Vancouver in 2010. More Canadian children and youth could go on to become future medalists with increased funding to enable access to affordable equipment, facilities, and recreational and training opportunities.

## DRIVING INNOVATION

Thanks in part to advocacy and work done by people living with disabilities and related organizations, innovation and infrastructure changes has made the physical environment around us better, safer and more inclusive for everyone. Innovations include ramps into buildings, curb cuts, accessible features on cellphones, and low-floor trains and buses. When we design for universal accessibility and inclusion, everyone wins! It's also good for the economy. The adoption of Universal Design principles across various market segments in Ontario and the US is estimated to be a \$2 trillion business opportunity.



### Sources

Statistics Canada, "Canadian Survey on Disability," 2012.  
Conference Board of Canada, "The Business Case to Build Physically Accessible Environments," 2018.  
Canadian Paralympic Committee, 2018.  
MaRs Market Insights, "Towards an Accessible Future," 2013.

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