



“Never doubt for a moment that a small group of dedicated citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”

Margaret Mead

Diversity in Action



Co-operative Housing
Federation of Canada

MAY 2001

People with Disabilities

Who are we?

We are as diverse in what we can do as any group. We are:

- ◆ unique and valuable co-op members
- ◆ people who get things done
- ◆ talented, and with hidden strengths

Some disabilities can be seen; some are hidden. Anything that limits what we can do or what is open to us in life is a disability. It could be:

- ◆ a back or neck injury
- ◆ finding it hard to see or hear
- ◆ cerebral palsy or other physical conditions that we are born with

Taking part in the workforce, the community, and society has changed us. And it has started to change the way you think about us.

But, there are still false ideas about people with disabilities. Often someone will think people in wheelchairs can't speak and will talk to a person with them. Some people still think that a person with a disability cannot be a good parent.

Our goals:

We want you to:

- ◆ look beyond the differences and barriers and accept us as the team players we are
- ◆ give us chances to share our talents and strengths
- ◆ help us earn better wages by hiring us for real jobs at fair rates of pay
- ◆ be open-minded in your dealings with us
- ◆ take time to listen to us, and ask us for our opinions
- ◆ speak with us, sharing your stories and views – we care
- ◆ honour our need for independence – it means freedom for many of us
- ◆ fight with us for legal changes that will give us the same chances in life as everyone else

People with disabilities have done great things. Our mentors include Beethoven, Terry Fox, José Feliciano and Helen Keller. How many others can you name?

We aim for a barrier-free society and we need your help as we work toward this goal.

PLEASE POST

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)