

Monitoring the Human Rights of People with Disabilities in Canada

Monitoring Individual Experiences.

Data collection on the Québec Site

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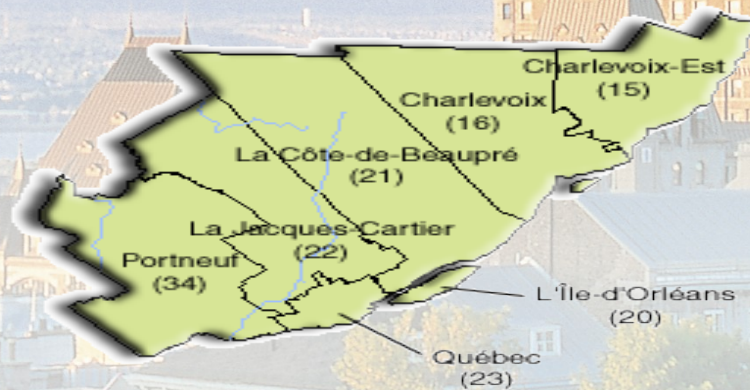
This research project is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and directed by Marcia Rioux, Ph.D. of York University in Toronto, Canada

Objectives of the Presentation

- Presentation of the team members and the local organisation and coordinator;
- Data collection exercise;
- And a brief description of socio-demographic profile of participants.

Local Partner Organization

Regroupement des organisations de personnes handicapées région 03 (ROP 03);



An umbrella organisation on the regional level representing over 24 local grass root organizations including all kind of disabilities except mental health groups

Team Members

Local Coordinator

Olivier Collomb D'Eyrasme, director of ROP-03

Four Monitors

Raynald Pelletier;
Rachel Fillion;
Réal Guérette;
Mirlande Demers.



Réal and Mirlande



Olivier and Normand



Raynald

The training Seminar Of November in Toronto

Some comments from the monitors

Monitors have appreciated their experience, in particular the first day with the speakers and historical perspective;

Geoffrey Reaume conference on Madness;

Exchanges with other participants;

The seminar was very intensive sometime too much for all of them;

More time to practice the interview.

Data collection

First interviews have been made in early December for both monitors duo

January 20th until April 20th

Overall, 46 Interviews have been completed

Data collection (2)

Provided to monitors all documents usefull for the Interviews such as a list of resources, consent forms, coding sheets, note Interviews, etc.

Review the instructions step by step with monitors

Data collection (3)

Key factors

The role of the local coordinator was important;

Team meetings have provided also a good support to monitors (information, sharing experience, and questions, etc.);

Use of snow ball technique was good but asked more times to monitor

Data Collection (4)

Some obstacles to overcome

Transportation

Climatic conditions

Recruitment of participants

Unusual Winter Climatic Conditions



Monitor's comments based on their experience

- People with disabilities seem to ignore their rights.
- They were afraid to be judged and socially isolated.
- Interviews allowed to break the social isolation.
- Wonderful human experience.

Sociodemographic profile of interviewees (n=45)

SEX

Male: 23

Female : 22

Type of Disabilities

Mobility : 29 Visual : 5

Hearing : 6 Intellectual : 3

Psychiatric : 1 Others : 2

Age group

18-25 : 1 26-40 : 6

41-55 : 17 56-70 : 20

70 + : 1

Schooling

Primary/secondary :25

Postsecondary : 20

Sociodemographic profile of Interviewees (n=45)

Live with Whom?

Single : 23

Partners* : 15

Parents: 3

Others: 3

Housing

Owner : 15

Tenant : 30

* Regarding Partners, 6 of them live with their children too

Sociodemographic profile of interviewees (n=45)

Socio economic status

Unemployment : 16

Employment : 12

Retired : 15

Others : 2

Sociodemographic profile of interviewees (n=45)

How long have you had your disabilities?

Since birth : 19

1 to 10 years : 7

11 to 25 years : 11

26 to 45 years : 4

46 and over : 4

Preliminary data (n=12)

- Independent Living and Participation are the most important domains;
- Social exclusion and inclusion were the most identified by participants;
- Negative dignity and Lack of autonomy are also two important barriers to the exercise of the Human rights;
- 2/3 of participants report have taken legal action to denounce abuse and discrimination situations;
- 2/3 of participants recommend to realize some awareness activities and educate the society about disability.

Conclusions

Overall experience has been very rich for the monitors;

Put at forestage the difficulties encounter by people with disabilities within our society to the exercice of the human rights;

The monitoring activities and tools are essential;

The role of the disability community remains also very important in particular in providing support to those persons in this process.

A final Word

Thanks to Mirlande Demers for her great but to short
contribution
to the human rights issues !!!!