



*CCD-CACL Working Paper on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
February 2011*

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**WORKING PAPER OVERVIEW**

The Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) have developed a Working Paper, *The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Making Domestic Implementation Real and Meaningful*. The intention of the paper is to spark dialogue on implementation of the CRPD and propose concrete actions for consideration.

These actions include:

A. National mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and reporting

To deliver on the intent of the CRPD and to meet the obligations in CRPD Articles 4, 33, 35, the Government of Canada should:

- Establish a High-level Federal Focal Point and Coordination Mechanism to Implement the CRPD
- Demonstrate Federal Policy Leadership on key priorities of the disability community (see below)
- Create a Parliamentary Committee for input and leadership
- Ensure an Independent Monitoring Mechanism – to measure progress and impact
- Establish a process for Canada's first Comprehensive Report to the UN on the CRPD (due in 2012)

B. A robust participation strategy

- Design a robust participation strategy to ensure Canada meets its obligations in Article 4 to “consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations” in implementing the CRPD.

C. A national framework for implementation

- Design a National Framework for Implementation, or a National Action Plan, to ensure Canada meets its obligations in Article 33(2) and to provide the vision and overarching framework for successful implementation of the CRPD. A detailed implementation action plan would identify necessary mechanisms for collaboration, benchmarks for monitoring and reporting, and strategies for priority areas for action the disability community has identified, including:
  - Access to disability supports
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Labour force participation
  - Accessibility and inclusion
  - Canada's international leadership

D. A public and transparent review process

- Canada included a reservation on Article 12 with its ratification and has not yet signed or ratified the Optional Protocol. The Government of Canada should establish a clear timeframe and process to review its position on Article 12 and the Optional Protocol.

Our Immediate Call-to-Action for the Government of Canada and Parliamentarians:

1. The Government of Canada should

- Create an advisory panel, with representation from national disability organizations, to explore how to move forward the actions identified here. The creation of such a panel would be a first step in meeting Canada's obligations to the CRPD.

2. Parliamentarians should:

- Endorse and support the convening of Parliamentary hearings on the CRPD. The hearings should be convened as soon as possible and should include representatives from disability organizations as key witnesses.