
Rights-based approaches in childhood disabilities

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Context

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was the first human rights treaty to include disability as grounds for protection from discrimination.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): the social model of disability and the notion of inclusion and expands on the CRC for this population.
- Implementation in Canada has been limited
- A new disability legislation is being developed in Canada

Basic principles:

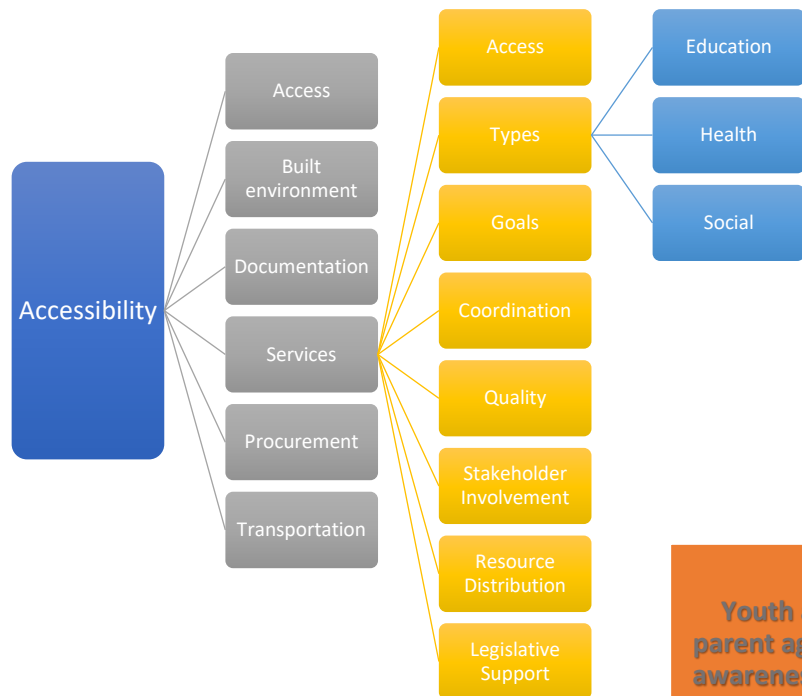
- non-discrimination;
- best interest of the child;
- the right to life, survival and development;
- and the right to participate.

Shikako-Thomas & Shevell (2018). *Seminars in Pediatric Neurology*

Research Literature Review

112 academic articles were analyzed

These topics were identified in the research literature

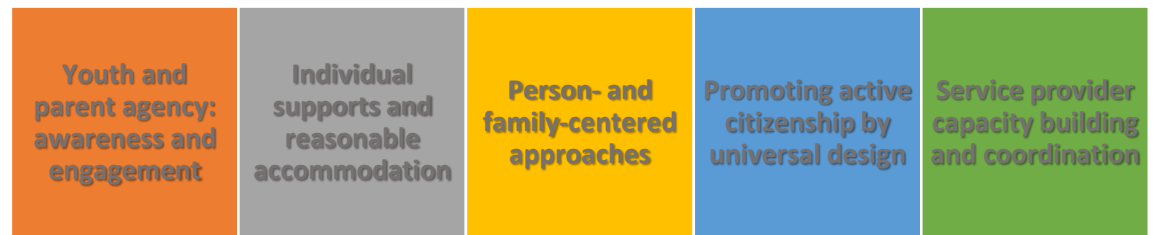


Actionable Topics Identified

Assistive technology	Client-centered approach	Coordinated approach: multi-agency care	Financial assistance	Integration and mainstreaming
Family-centered model	Full citizenship	Measuring success	Employment	Reasonable accommodation
Youth engagement and agency	Provide information	Awareness through training	Universal Design	Quality Improvement for services

Adopt strategies that promotes human rights for children across the entire lifespan

Solutions were grouped into 5 categories



Connecting Rights and Needs

Themes

INCLUSION

- ✓ Social Inclusion
- ✓ Inclusive Education

PARTICIPATION

- ✓ Participation in Public Life
- ✓ Participation in Leisure

FAMILY SUPPORT

- ✓ Family-centered approaches
- ✓ Supports systems and community integration

Frameworks

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, 2001)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989)

- Social Model of Disability
- WHO's International Classification of Functioning (ICF)

Equity Considerations

Intersectionality

Children x Disability



Rights-based approaches in childhood disabilities

Stakeholder consultations: Raising awareness and validating actionable items

Researchers consultation (law, human rights, rehab, disabilities, social work):
scarce use of "rights" language in health research and practice
Legal aspect not health, education, participation → occupations!

Grassroots organizations survey (N= 107) disability organizations across Canada

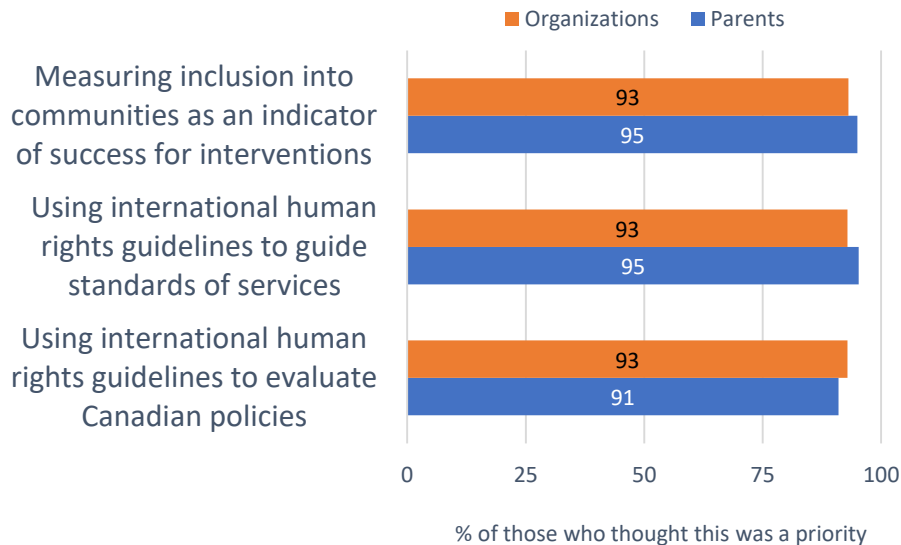
Parents survey (N=33)

Youth focus group and photo elicitation

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Stakeholder consultations: the priority actionable solutions that promote the rights of children with disabilities

We need to identify and measure the physical, social, cultural, and economic barriers to full inclusion in order to develop policies, programs and interventions for children with disabilities



“You have to measure the full citizenship - what are the markers of full citizenship, and include that in policy.”

- parent

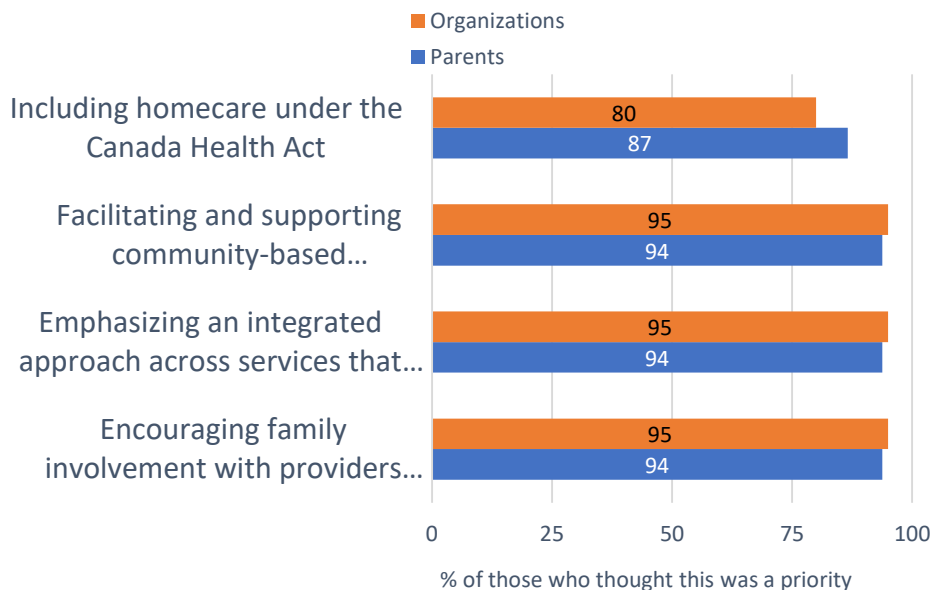
“We believe the convention is a great guide for inclusion- in both creating and evaluating inclusion policies.”

- organization

Stakeholder consultation: the priority actionable solutions that promote the rights of children with disabilities

There is a lack of integrated and adequate social, health, and educational services for children with disabilities, placing economic, psychological and medical burden of care from the state to the family (especially on women)

Children with disabilities lack opportunities to participate equally in public life and in activities that are crucial for them to reach their full potential (e.g. leisure, community life, school activities, decision making)



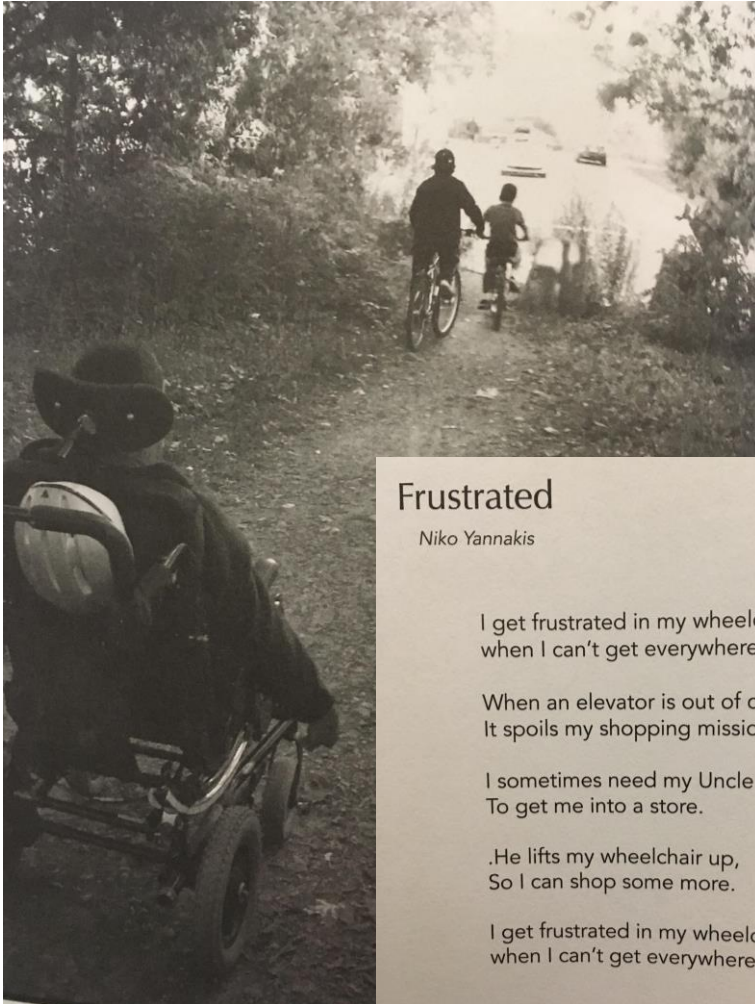
Solutions:

- Providing evidence-based strategies to support advocacy
- Developing programs to enable youth to develop self advocacy skills and to connect with the disability community
- Holding public consultations and policy dialogues with youth and evaluating such programs
- Raising awareness on rights-based approaches and the social model of disability

“We work with young men and women who want to advocate for themselves yet lack the resources or strategies to do so.” - organization

*“Participation in decision making promotes buy in and enhances self esteem.”
- parent*

Policy Dialogues



Frustrated

Niko Yannakis

I get frustrated in my wheelchair,
when I can't get everywhere.

When an elevator is out of commission,
It spoils my shopping mission.

I sometimes need my Uncle Mike,
To get me into a store.

.He lifts my wheelchair up,
So I can shop some more.

I get frustrated in my wheelchair,
when I can't get everywhere.

- Creating space for discussion, awareness, knowledge translation

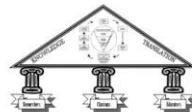
→ Policymakers at provincial and federal level

→ UN Conference of the States Parties for the CRPD

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MERCI!