

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has seven sections that affect Deaf people. This brochure focuses on those seven sections.

The purpose of the CRPD is to encourage, protect, and guarantee that all people with disabilities can enjoy equal rights and freedoms, no matter where they live.

Article 2 – Definitions (what a word means)

The word “language” is used many times in the CRPD. Every time you see it, you should know that it includes “spoken and signed languages and other forms of non-spoken languages”.

Article 3 – General principles

The CRPD is based upon 8 “general principles”, meaning 8 “rules”. These rules are:

1. Respect our dignity and independence. We have the right to make our own choices.
2. No discrimination.
3. Full participation in society.
4. Everybody is different, including people with disabilities. All of us must accept and respect these differences.

5. Equal opportunity.
6. Equal accessibility.
7. Equality between men and women.
8. Respect the abilities of children who have disabilities. Respect their right to keep their identities, including their Deaf identity.

Article 9 – Accessibility

There must be full and equal access for people with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information, communications, technologies, and public places and services.

Example: National governments are responsible for providing professional-quality interpreters in public buildings such as museums. Governments must encourage access to communications and information technologies such as Video Relay Service. But governments are not responsible for actually setting-up and operating Video Relay Service.

Article 21 – Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Everyone has the same right to search for and to share information, ideas, and opinions. Governments are responsible for supporting this equal right. Here are some ways they can do it:

a) Provide information in accessible formats and technologies ... in a timely manner (e.g., TV news updates must be captioned), and without additional cost (meaning, they can't charge *us* for Sign Language Interpreters).

b) Accept and encourage the use of Sign languages and all other accessible forms of communication in “official interactions” (which means government meetings, government conferences, etc.)

Example: when a Deaf voter wants to meet her Member of Parliament (MP) and asks for an interpreter, the MP must respect her request and the MP must provide and pay the interpreter.

c) Encourage the media (TV, movies, Internet, etc.) to provide access with captioning, interpreting, using Deaf Signers on-screen, etc.

d) Recognize and support Sign languages.

Article 24 – Education

Persons with disabilities have the right to inclusive, quality, and free education in the communities where they live. They also have the right to the support services they need to succeed in school.

Deaf, deafblind, and blind people have the right to receive education in the language and communication method that is most appropriate for them.

Governments must help the learning of Sign language, and must promote the linguistic and cultural identity of the Deaf community.

Deaf people and people with disabilities must be provided with equal opportunity to learn life skills and social skills, so they can all participate fully and equally in the community.

Also, governments must employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in Sign language and/or Braille. Professionals and staff who work at any level of education must be provided with training in the rights of people with disabilities.

Article 25 – Health

People with disabilities have the right to equal quality and kinds of health services, including early intervention.

Health professionals must provide us with equal quality of health care. They must provide us with full information about all options, so we can make good decisions for ourselves.

Health care workers must receive training about the human rights, dignity, independence, and needs of persons with disabilities.

Article 30 – Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

Governments must recognize the right of persons with disabilities to participate equally in cultural life, recreation, and sport. Governments must recognize and support specific cultural and linguistic identities, including Sign languages and Deaf culture.

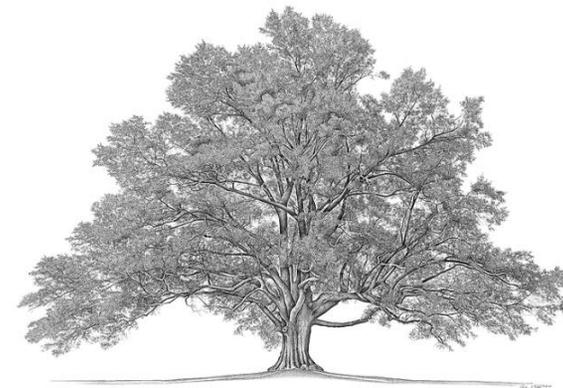
For more information about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, check the website www.cad.ca, where you will find easy-to-understand summaries available in ASL and LSQ videos, captioning, voice-over, and print publications.

**For a full text version of the CRPD, check the United Nations website here:
<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>**

Production of videos and printed material was funded in part by the Human Rights Program, Department of Canadian Heritage. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Canadian Association of the Deaf and not of Canadian Heritage.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

What it means for Deaf people



Canadian Association of the Deaf

www.cad.ca
303 - 251 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

Charitable Business No.
10807 5003 RR0001

