

# **Access to Post-Secondary Education**

Research Initiative on Democratic Reform in  
Ukraine symposium

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# Who we are...

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# Objectives

- Describe Canadian approach to facilitating access to post-secondary education
- Share institutional and student perspectives
- Future directions

# The law



# Alberta Human Rights Act



- Protected grounds
- Reasonable accommodation
- Full participation
- Standards maintained
- Undue Hardship

# The post-secondary institution

- Designated department
- Funding
- Policy
- Services
- Guidelines and processes
- Education and Communication

# Current situation

- Steadily growing number of students with disabilities attending post-secondary
- Students expectations
- University graduates with disabilities proven to be more likely to find employment

# The future...

- Shift in focus: from accommodation to accessibility





# Universal design – Access for All



INSPIRED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES



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**CLEARING A PATH  
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS  
CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!**

# UD - Communication



# UD - Learning

## Universal Design for Learning

*Multiple Means of Representation*

*Multiple Means of Expression*



*Multiple Means of Engagement*

# The journey....

## EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.