

*The Task Force On The
Economic Integration of Women
With Disabilities in Nova Scotia*

M. S. S. W.
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NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPORT LOOKS AT BARRIERS FACING DISABLED WOMEN

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, MAY 28, 1993 -- The Task Force on the Economic Integration of Women With Disabilities in Nova Scotia, today, announced the release of its report - "Women Willing To Work" - the results of a research project into the barriers to employment facing women with disabilities in Nova Scotia.

The project was initiated by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women's Economic Equality Committee in partnership with the Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities, the Disabled Persons Commission, and the Coordinating Council on Deafness of Nova Scotia, who set up an Ad Hoc Task Force to identify a project that would mark the end of the Decade of Disabled Persons (1982-1992).

With funding from Employment and Immigration Canada, a Researcher/Coordinator was hired to consult with women with disabilities across the province about the barriers they face and the solutions they might recommend to enable their full participation in the economic mainstream.

Seventy-nine personal interviews and three focus groups were undertaken and the data obtained details the experience of these women in relation to education, employment and economic conditions. The Report ends with a series of recommendations by the Task Force which arise primarily from the research itself, in conjunction with the literature on women with disabilities and the direct experience of Task Force members, the majority of whom are themselves disabled.

"It is very appropriate that we are releasing our Report during National Access Awareness Week (May 31 - June 6) which focuses nationally on the removal of barriers facing persons with disabilities", said Marcie Shwery-Stanley, Task Force Chairperson.

"Despite the genuine efforts of many individuals, employers, agencies, and levels of government, the full economic integration of women with disabilities has not yet been realized. There is a compelling need to identify concrete strategies for the development of appropriate programs and services to facilitate this. And we feel the most valuable source of information in devising strategies relating to women with disabilities are women with disabilities themselves. We also envision a second phase to this project which will bring these women together to discuss common issues and concerns."

Other partners on the Task Force include the Canadian Paraplegic Association, the Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians, and the Atlantic Centre for Support and Research for Disabled Students.

Copies of the Executive Summary/Recommendations and/or the complete Report may be obtained from the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women - (902) 424-8662, toll free 1-800-565-8662, the Disabled Persons Commission - (902) 424-8280, toll free 1-800-565-8280, or any other Task Force member.

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