

Meaningful Experiences

The vulnerability of vision loss. The frustration of mental illness. The physical effort required to spend even a short time in a wheelchair. Only these actual experiences can define disability. Without these experiences, there can be no real understanding of the need to address access issues.

**Simple seminars are
not enough.**

**Building code requirements are
not enough.**

**Knowing someone with a
disability is
not enough.**

Meaningful access requires real understanding. Only by actually experiencing some of the disability world can people begin to see the barriers that challenge people with disabilities everyday.

Hundreds of people have completed the "Ramping Minds" disability awareness training program. Evaluation sheets returned by participants indicate a 99% approval rating for the content and training approach of this program.

'In my view, just *talking* about people with disabilities is not enough. The disability simulation opened our eyes to another world. This program not only a training seminar; it is a real life experience. "

Nikki Rousanetis
Canadian Bar Association

"I have been in the engineering and design business for 38 years. Until this course, I just did not realize what people with visual impairments had to contend with every day. The course gave me a much better appreciation for the range of problems that persons with visual impairments encounter."

Garry McClure
Manager, Engineering Services
Vancouver International Airport

'Now we know first hand about some of the feelings of frustration and vulnerability that are part of everyday life for many people with disabilities."

Linda Dowd



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RAMPING MINDS

Disability Awareness Training

Awareness Training

Disability Awareness Training

is the key to effective and comfortable interaction with people with disabilities. It is training that can make employment equity programs more successful and improve customer service. The difference is a staff that is confident with disability issues and can deal appropriately with the changing demographics and demands of our communities.

Ramping Minds is a general

awareness program designed to:

- Give participants the language and etiquette skills needed to appropriately serve or work with people with disabilities.
- Dispel old stereotypes and assumptions about the capabilities of people with disabilities.
- Help participants understand the scope of disability in the community.
- To the extent possible, let participants experience for themselves the impact of actually having a disability.

A Typical Training Day

Simulation

- **Wheelchair Use**
- **Vision Loss**
- **Mental Illness**

The learning experience provided through these simulations will have a significant impact on participants' values, attitudes, and sensitivities to disability issues. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of the experiential component of this workshop.

Each participants will have an hour to experience each simulated disability.

Note: Due to the difficulty in accurately simulating deafness and/or hearing loss, these significant disabilities will instead be discussed in detail in the afternoon seminar session.

Seminar Sessions

Participants take part in group discussions and breakout sessions that cover key disability issues:

- **The Eight Key Disability Groups**
- **The Statistics/Demographics of Disability**
- **Appropriate Language and Terminology**
- **Etiquette and Attitudes**
- **Practical Job Related Approches**

Included in the participant manual is an etiquette guide and language guide to help people working along side of or providing services to people with disabilities.



Workshop Leaders

All sessions are conducted by industry professionals who are themselves people with disabilities. This ensures that the most relevant information is available to the course participants. More importantly, it creates an opportunity for participants to spend time with people with disabilities in a relaxed and casual environment. This source of anecdotal information for participants helps complete the true disability picture.

The Company

Canadian Barrier Free Design Inc. has over 12 years of experience in designing and delivering disability awareness training to the public and private sector. We offer training that is developed and delivered by people with disabilities and supported by a seasoned, industry leading company specializing in the access issues of people with disabilities.

