

DID YOU KNOW?

24% of women in Canada have a disability. ¹

Out of those who live in poverty, approximately 33% are women with disabilities. ²

Nearly half (49%) of all discrimination complaints in Canada are grounded in disability. ²

23% of women with disabilities have experienced emotional, financial, physical, sexual violence, or abuse in the past 5 years. ²

Only 61% of women with disabilities between the ages of 25-54 are participating in the labour force. ²



¹ Canadian Survey on Disability Reports, 2017

² Disabled Women's Network Canada, More Than a Footnote, 2018

If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please contact **Melissa Simas**,
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[@expandingthereach](https://www.facebook.com/expandingthereach)



[@expandingthereach.swc](https://www.instagram.com/expandingthereach.swc)

Expanding the Reach

A large blue female symbol (a circle with a cross) is positioned behind a cluster of colorful, multi-colored squares in shades of pink, purple, blue, and yellow.

Empowering women with disabilities



www.scarboroughwomenscentre.ca

FEBRUARY 2022

EXPANDING THE REACH

The Expanding the Reach: Outreach to Women with Disabilities program is an outreach program at the Scarborough Women's Centre that was started in 2007 to address a gap in services for women living with visible and invisible disabilities in Scarborough.

CURRENT WORK

Currently, we are facilitating projects to address violence experienced by women with disabilities and to promote the inclusion of women with disabilities in the workplace. We are also exploring initiatives to strengthen our capacity to support women with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.



PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the program are to:



Provide women with disabilities with access to free educational webinars and workshops

Provide women with disabilities with opportunities to develop leadership skills and make positive changes in their communities



Learn what is needed to deliver services that are responsive to the needs of women with disabilities

Share our program learning with our agency networks and other committed stakeholders



DEFINING DISABILITY

Defining disability is a complex and evolving concept. The term "disability" covers a broad range of conditions that may have been present at birth, caused by an accident, or developed over time.

We use the definition of disability provided by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which recognizes that disability can be visible or invisible. Examples of disabilities can include: physical, visual, hearing, speech, intellectual, learning, mental health, episodic, and environmental sensitivities.

PROGRAM PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Thank you to our program partners and to the Canadian Women's Foundation for supporting the empowerment of women with disabilities

