

Dear Accessibility Committee:

RE: Access Awareness Day – June 2, 2018

June 2, 2018 is Access Awareness Day! Access Awareness Day provides each of us with an opportunity to look at our communities and to think about what we can do to make them more accessible and inclusive for everyone! Access Awareness Day is part of National AccessAbility Week which takes place from May 27 to June 2, 2018.

As part of National AccessAbility Week, the goal is to recognize the efforts of individuals and communities who are actively removing barriers to give Canadians of all abilities a better chance to succeed! The theme for this year's Access Awareness Day is "*Building Community & Accessibility Together*." As part of this year's planning, our goal is to draw attention to the different ways that communities come together to promote greater accessibility and inclusion.

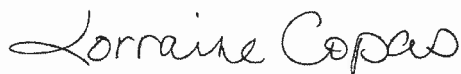
Each year, as part of our annual Access Awareness Day campaign we reach out to local community partners to learn more about the work that they are doing to ensure that all citizens are able to share their talents, experiences and abilities and are fully included in all aspects of community life. Please find enclosed posters and materials that have been developed to help build increased public awareness and support around accessibility and to recognize the importance of working together to ensure that everyone is included.

I am also pleased to announce that this year, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction has made \$500 in funding available to municipalities and community-based disability groups who are holding local accessibility events. If you are planning an event, please do not hesitate to reach out to share your ideas and to request this funding. We know that by building accessibility we are creating stronger and healthier communities.

We are creating a leadership page on our website that shows promising accessibility initiatives and practices from across B.C. Please take a few minutes to share your stories with us about the different ways that your community has had success in promoting greater accessibility! If you have any questions, or would like to request additional materials or posters, please do not hesitate to reach out to Alfiya Battalova, our Acting Manager of Accessibility Initiatives (email: abattalova@sparc.bc.ca).

Thank you for the part you play in helping to make our communities more accessible and inclusive!

Sincerely



Lorraine Copas
Executive Director, SPARC BC



Building Community & Accessibility **Together**

