

Introduction – “A lot of people are shocked and didn’t believe I had an impairment but I fell of a horse when I was 11 years old, dislocated my hip and fractured it and it is a typical injury that happens when you’re a senior or much older. So, for myself it’s always been people have never known what to do just because I’m so young and they’re not used to dealing with someone in my type of body, so yeah.”

Michael Onley Reporter- How would YOU define ‘Accessibility’?

“Just creating an environment that is easy to use for all people.”

First Speaker - Now how do I define ‘Accessibility’? It’s in the word itself, providing access for everybody, leveling the playing field so whether they have a mental or physical disabilities, no disabilities it’s all about level the playing field.”

Second Speaker - “Since I come from India, I know all about how the infrastructure can limit you. Here, everything is accessible in terms of infrastructure; you can go to University without having any problem as opposed to say if you’re in India not every place, even the roads or buses for that matter are not accessible.

Third Speaker - “This is the thing that I’ve seen, like just because a person is blind or doesn’t have a leg or arm people think “oh those people, you know they’re disabled they can’t do what we can.” What you can do they can do too as well!”

Michael Onley Reporter- “What have you learned about accessibility and what do you want the public to know more about that?”

I’ve learned that there are a lot of barriers, especially, living in Toronto. A lot of the older buildings are not accessible, what I want people to know is that a lot more people are going to come face-to-face with this. We have a growing population, the *Baby Boomers* are going to start facing these issues themselves and I think these issues are going to come more and more apparent but the sooner they get resolved the better.

Closing Comments – “I think it’s important to know that it doesn’t just benefit people with disabilities, so, having a ramp into a Community Centre can benefit a Mother with a stroller so instead of having to push the stroller up the stairs can use that ramp. As well, a senior who needs little more assistance can use that ramp. So, ‘Accessibility’ isn’t just for people with disabilities, it’s really just thinking about how we can design the environment for people of all abilities to use it as efficiently and as effectively as they possibly can be.”