

The Business Case to Build Physically Accessible Environments

The Conference Board of Canada, on behalf of the Rick Hansen Foundation, examined the economic costs of inadequate accessibility in Canada. The results show that improving physical accessibility would dramatically improve the labour force population and consumer spending of Canadians with physical disabilities.

In 2018:



The number of Canadians living with a physical disability (impacting mobility, vision or hearing) will rise from **2.9 million** to **3.6 million** over the next 13 years, nearly double the pace of the population as a whole.



People with physical disabilities represent 14% of consumer spending, or **\$164 billion**, making up a large and growing consumer group.



57% of Canadians with physical disabilities who are currently unemployed believe they would be able to work if workplaces were more accessible.



49% of Canadians with physical disabilities who are working believe they could work more hours if workplaces were more accessible.

By 2030:



\$315B will be added to the Canadian economy annual, as real spending by people with disabilities grows (representing 21% of the total consumer market).



\$16.8B is the increase to our GDP if workplace improvements were made, allowing over half a million Canadians with disabilities to work more hours.