



11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons

Message from Transport Canada

Canada is proud to host the 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED), to be held June 18-21, 2007, at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal under the theme **Benchmarking, Evaluation and Vision for the Future**. The conference will review advances in research, evoke international breakthroughs and explore perspectives for technological innovations in order to respond to the mobility challenges of an aging population and of persons with disabilities, as part of an inclusive society.

The conferences are held triennially under the auspices of the U.S. Transportation Research Board, and are extremely important in the field of accessible transportation, attracting researchers, policy-makers and other specialists to share innovation and best practices.

The conference will offer an exhibition where participants will have an overview of the deployment of innovation in the field of accessible transportation. The conference will include plenary and parallel sessions that may take a variety of forms, including roundtables, panels and tutorials. The structure will be based on the number of contributed papers and symposia accepted.

Canada is delighted to host the 11th edition of TRANSED and welcomes you to attend!

The conference website is www.tc.gc.ca/transed/.





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TRANSED 2007 – Voyage to Montreal, Canada

Welcome!

The 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED) will be held in Montreal; we await your arrival!

Montreal

Canada is a vast country, Montreal, its second largest city with a population of 3,359,000, is located at 45°30 N / 73°36 W. Despite its size, Montreal holds the character of a smaller town with its rich history and French culture. Easy to access by air, by road, Montreal is 257km from Québec City, 204km from Ottawa, 546km from Toronto, and 5200km from Vancouver.

Climate

In June, the climate of Montreal is warm; the average daily temperature is 26°C. Summers are generally sunny, with occasional muggy or rainy days.

Sightseeing Tours for Accompanying Persons

Day activities, for a fee, will be available for accompanying persons and may include sightseeing, cultural and special events.

Entry to Canada

Visitors from all countries, except the US, need a valid passport to enter Canada; a visa may also be required. Americans are required to provide proof of citizenship upon request and must present a passport if entering from a third country.

Information on travel to Canada and related requirements can be obtained from any Canadian Embassy or your travel agent. Information can also be found at www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca.





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Access for all in Canada

Demographics

Canada's 3.5 million citizens with disabilities represent 15% of the country's nearly 32 million people. More than half of men and women over 75 have a disability, and about 2.2 million adults have difficulty using transportation services.

Levels of Government

In Canada, powers and responsibilities are divided between the federal and provincial governments, with transportation being shared. For example, federal jurisdiction includes international and interprovincial transportation services, while provincial jurisdiction includes roads, public transit, and vehicle licensing.

Rights Legislation

Canada's progressive human rights legislation, the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, mandates legislators to ensure there is no direct or indirect discrimination in any laws, regulations, policies or procedures. Similarly, the

Canada Transportation Act ensures undue obstacles to the mobility of persons with disabilities are eliminated from the federal transportation network.

Inclusive Society

Canada embraces an independent living philosophy based on the principle that persons with disabilities may live with dignity in their chosen community, participate in all aspects of life, and make decisions about their lives. Canada has moved away from institutionalization and towards independent living in the community with the necessary supports, including accessible housing, home care, and accessible transportation, to help individuals live and work actively in society.





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Access to Travel Website www.accesstotravel.gc.ca

The ability to travel from one place to another, whether a neighbouring town or a faraway country, is central to a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle. Those of us who routinely travel may not give a second thought to how we got to our destination. For persons with disabilities, however, travel can be taxing and stressful, discouraging them from using services we take for granted.

With Canada's population aging steadily and the disability rate expected to rise significantly over the coming decade, accessible transportation and travel resources will be in increasing demand. In preparation, the Access to Travel website, spearheaded by Transport Canada, was launched in April 2002 with the goal of making travel easier and more enjoyable for Canadians with disabilities.

The two main sections of the website, *Transportation Between Canadian Cities and Local Transportation*, offer a wealth of information on accessible transportation offered by service operators nationwide. The information is easily accessed: a user selects a city or town, and a list of accessible transportation service operators that serve that locality appears. Other sections are devoted to accessible tourism, government policies, complaints and inquiries, and user feedback.

The Access to Travel website aims to be a one-stop information source for travel in Canada, with the goal of

enabling the planning of the trip and ensuring timely transitions from one mode of transportation to another.





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Accessible Transportation: The Canadian Model

Key features in making transportation seamless and accessible:

National Policy

“It is hereby declared that a safe, economic, efficient and adequate network of viable and effective transportation services accessible to persons with disabilities and that makes the best use of all available modes of transportation at the lowest total cost is essential to serve the transportation needs of shippers and travellers, including persons with disabilities, and to maintain the economic well-being and growth of Canada and its regions....”

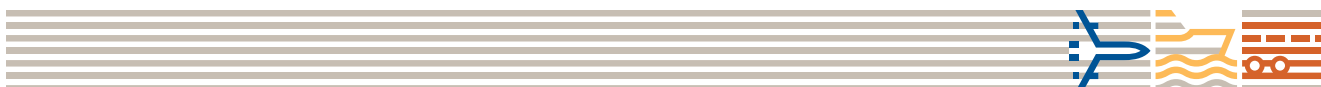
Canada Transportation Act
CHAPTER C-10.4 (1996, c. 10)

Research and Development

Transport Canada's Transportation Development Centre (TDC) assists in developing guidelines and standards that increase the safety and accessibility of transportation systems for elderly and disabled persons. TDC's accessibility research program works to develop and adapt technology and systems that eliminate travel barriers for elderly persons and those with mobility, sensory, or cognitive disabilities. Research projects investigate new technologies and operational innovations, and explore ways to capitalize on all research and development concerning transportation accessibility.

Consultation and Partnership

Transport Canada consults stakeholders to eliminate physical, attitudinal and systemic barriers for travellers. The Minister's Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation is an example of a collaborative mechanism.





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The Canadian Transportation Agency



Canadian
Transportation
Agency

Office
des transports
du Canada

The Agency is an independent, quasi-judicial, administrative tribunal and economic regulator which administers Canadian government policies and transportation legislation to help achieve an efficient and accessible transportation system. The Agency's responsibilities includes issuing licences to air carriers and railways, and resolving disputes over various air, rail and marine transportation rate and service matters. As the designated aeronautical authority for Canada, the Agency is also responsible for the provisions of air transport agreements related to air licencing.

The Agency exercises its powers through its Members and consists of a Chairman, who is also Chief Executive Officer, a Vice-Chairman, and Members, including an Air Travel Complaints Commissioner.

The Agency's Accessible Transportation Program

Under the *Canada Transportation Act*, the Agency has the power to remove unnecessary or unjustified barriers to the mobility of persons with disabilities who travel on the federal transportation network. Included in this network are: air carriers and airports; passenger rail carriers and stations; and, interprovincial ferry services and their terminals and interprovincial bus services. It removes these barriers through regulations, voluntary Codes of Practice, and proactive communications with the transportation industry and disability community. It also resolves individual complaints through informal means, including facilitation and mediation, and through a formal complaint process which may result in the Agency ordering corrective measures and/or the payment of compensation.

For more information on accessible transportation in Canada, please visit our web site at www.cta.gc.ca.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



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Canadian Innovation and Technology

In Canada, advanced technology developments have been central to making all modes of transportation accessible for persons with mobility and sensory impairments. Two key research areas have been emphasized: level change technologies in terminals and vehicles, and information access.

Level change technologies

Several cutting-edge technological solutions have been developed for level changes in vehicles.

The low-level loading bridge allows all passengers dignified access to small aircraft, including seniors and persons with mobility impairments.

The innovative 45-foot intercity bus, featuring a wheelchair lift and an accessible washroom, provides access and comfort for passengers in wheelchairs.

Information technologies

For persons with hearing, sight, speech and cognitive impairments, handheld wireless devices can access schedules, fares, routes and features.

In trains, buses and aircraft, visual displays with audio output provide alternatives for persons with vision and hearing impairments.

Innovation is key to building a safe, secure and sustainable transportation system accessible to all Canadians. Transport Canada aims to achieve this goal through partnerships with private industry, universities and other governments to develop and deploy innovative technologies.



Orleans Express and Alstom/Telecity





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Government of Canada Internet Sites

Canada provides, free of charge online, a wealth of valuable information to researchers, policy-makers, and citizens. Below are selected sites with information related to persons with disabilities, seniors, and accessible transportation.

Transport Canada's Policy site highlights the national transportation policy, legislation, programs and services, including the interprovincial bus code of practice. www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/accessibility/menu.htm

Transport Canada's Transportation Development Centre site outlines the Centre's six areas of accessible transportation research and describes completed and ongoing projects. Audience: researchers, product developers, and companies examining commercialization. www.tc.gc.ca/tdc/projects/access/menu.htm

Canadian Transportation Agency's site has information about accessible transportation regulations and codes of practice, travel tips, and how to resolve a complaint. Audience: travellers, organizations, airlines, airports, rail carriers and train stations, ferry

operators and ferry terminals, ground transportation providers, travel agents, and government officials. www.cta.gc.ca

Persons with Disabilities Online

improves the quality of life of persons with disabilities by facilitating access to information such as employment options, tax credits, and how to adapt a home to accommodate a wheelchair. Audience: persons with disabilities and their families, caregivers, employers, and anyone with whom they interact. www.pwd-online.ca

Seniors Canada Online offers the same level of information as the pwd-online site, with the information focused on the interests of seniors. www.seniors.gc.ca

Government of Canada site is a gateway to federal organizations, policies, and legislation offering information to domestic and international individuals and businesses. www.canada.ca

