



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Maccess Director

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Phoebe Wang  
SUBJECT: Maccess Report 3  
DATE: Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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### Year Plan Update

Original November Goals (Updates in blue):

- DisVisibility and History Week
  - [Launching Nov 21-25<sup>th</sup>](#)
  - [Microsoft Form for event sign up to help us ensure safety. We will email all attendees the Zoom link, as making a public Zoom may lead to unforeseen circumstances](#)
- Ensure Maccess is running smoothly in terms of budget, logistics, hours, etc.
- Have accessibility guidebooks finalized to be sent to professors for implementation in second term
  - [In progress](#)
- Plan for Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> International Day of Persons with Disabilities
  - [Potential collaboration with PACBIC's DIMAND group](#)
- Plan Winter Wonder Care with SHEC
  - [It has become a joint project between SHEC, Maccess, WGEN, and DEN](#)
  - [Great way of demonstrating intersectionality within our peer support services](#)

### Events, Projects, & Activities

#### *General Service Usage*

We operate in hybrid mode as it allows us to reach more students. Some student prefer online anonymity, some students prefer more personal interactions

- Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays – MUSC B111 space is open from 12-4 PM

- Tuesdays, Thursdays – Discord space is open from 12-4
- Tuesdays + Thursdays Evenings – Community Groups will run
  - One community group with PCC will be launching soon
    - Theme: Queer, Trans, & Disabled
  - Community groups are great for students who feel that they are part of multiple marginalized groups.
    - It is important to acknowledge intersectionality

### *Project 1 – Accessibility Concerns at McMaster Microsoft Form (Complete/Ongoing)*

- For our community to suggest areas of concern at McMaster that they would like addressed. Hopefully these concerns can shape our advocacy efforts for the year and address the main concerns that disabled students are facing on campus.
- For example, on our form, some mentioned that:
  - “In the CATS center, their lighting is very florescent in silent study space. Because of my sensory sensitivities, it can feel really overwhelming at times. If possible, I would suggest that the lights are dimmed or consider turning them off and buying more lamps (there's only a few right now).”
    - This is significant, as CATS space should be a safe and accessible space for the disabled community
  - I emailed Nancy Waite, who acknowledged this ongoing issue, and will be forwarding my email to her boss as a nudge
- To motivate the community: those that fill out the form will be entered into a raffle (potential – issue is everyone’s answers are anonymous)
  - Prizes will be a Starbucks gift cards

### *Project 2 – Fall Social Media Campaign (Ongoing/Upcoming)*

- What our social media campaigns are: 5 days of advocacy/education through posts
- Fall Semester’s Topic: Portrayal of Disabilities in Movies/Shows
- Launching around Dec 5th - Dec 9<sup>th</sup> (if possible)

### *Project 3 – PTM Collaboration on Exam Care Packages (Upcoming)*

- SHEC submitted our application for the Special Projects Fund
- The PTMS hope to work together to produce around 300 packages to hand out to students. In each package, there will be a rave card that informs students of services that they can reach out to when our services are closed for the holidays. We also think it’s a great way to promote all the peer support services. PEER SUPPORT PTMS UNITED 🇺🇸
- Sharing our budget allowed for better packages to be produced

### *Event 1 - DisVisibility and History Week (Ongoing/Upcoming)*

- DisVisibility and History Week is a campaign to shed on the current and historical discriminations against the disabled community. We want folks to feel that they too belong to the McMaster community, to make us more visible, and “shout” that we are here too! We will be advocating and educating on accessibility too through speaker events!
- All 7 events approved:

- Monday, Nov 21st, 5PM - 6 PM: Arts & Crafts with Maccess in MUSC B111 (w/ Pizza and Drinks)
- Tuesday, Nov 22, 2 PM - 3 PM: Virtual Museum Tour on Disability Arts and Culture (ZOOM)
- Wednesday, Nov 23, 3 PM - 4 PM: Learn about accessibility in the NMR lab from Hilary Jenkins (ZOOM)
- Thursday, Nov 24th, 12 PM - 2 PM: Get Your Sh\*t Together Workshop (w/ Pizza and Drinks, get a goodie bag too)
- Thursday, Nov 24th, 2 PM - 3 PM: Learn about getting published in academia during COVID while being disabled from Celeste Suart (ZOOM)
- Friday, Nov 25th, 2 PM - 3PM: Come chat with Roche Keane (ZOOM)
- Friday, Nov 25th, 5 PM - 7 PM: Stress-Relief Paint/Colouring Night in BSB 138 (Supplies and Snacks Provided)

### *Event 2 – Dec 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Upcoming)*

- Collaborating with DIMAND working group to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities (In talks)
  - To increase reach
  - They have more resources

## **Outreach & Promotions**

- Bringing concerns to Paula and Wooder about the ineffective system between PTMs, graphic designers, and promo executive
- This system sometimes leads to inaccessible and weak promo:

### **For Context:**

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## DISVISIBILITY WEEK

### The 2000's

**2005:** The Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is enacted for the purposes of improving accessibility standards for Ontarians with physical and mental disabilities to all public establishments by 2025

**2007:** Canada signs the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- This Convention would aim at creating a more inclusive society to develop accessible goods, services and technology

**2018:** A CBC report, "Deadly Force" documents all known police executions in Canada in 2017.

- Their data would show Black and Indigenous people disproportionately subject to deadly violence, with over 70% of people killed having struggled with mental health

**2018:** The Disability Justice Network of Ontario is launched out of Hamilton, Ontario

**2019:** A McMaster study finds that half of incarcerated people have experienced abuse

**2025:** AODA has proposed measures to make the province of Ontario fully accessible by 2025

- Customer Service, Employment, Information, Communications, Transportation, and Design of Public Spaces are the five standards which are to be enforced

The legal history of disability in Canada, highlights brutality, while also reflecting on the efforts towards the recognition of disabilities through a "Disability Justice" approach. It is through this movement, and its principles Maccess is guided as to ensure collective liberation.

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## DISVISIBILITY WEEK

### Get your sh\*t together workshop

Thursday, November 24  
12pm - 2pm

- First Hour: LAS Nancy White as speaker
- Second Hour: Workshop with open discussion, tips, techniques
- Goodie bags and free pizza + drinks provided!



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**Guest Speaker: Celeste Suart**  
Thursday, November 24  
2pm - 3pm

**Publish-or-Perish: Disabled Researchers' Experience of Academic Publishing during COVID-19**

- Learn about findings from a Canada-wide survey of over 1,000 academic researchers examining the impacts of COVID-19 on perceived publication pressure, and the disparities between disabled and non-disabled academics.
- Celest Suart is a disabled McMaster PhD candidate in Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences. She also works for the MacPherson Institute where her work focuses on accessible pedagogy and laboratory-based learning

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## DISVISIBILITY WEEK

### 1800's to 1900's

- As industrialization and urbanization flourished, increased number of hospitals were built globally, and many adopted what they called "moral treatment" which discouraged physical restraints and rather focused on emotional well-being
- People with mental illness were still largely feared, subsequently being institutionalized with little or no psychological treatment
- A few researchers, such as Dorothea Dix, made findings public that emphasized more humane treatment and living conditions

Weird space?

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## DISVISIBILITY WEEK

### A Legal History of Disability in Canada

#### Significant Events for Disabled Canadians

Some of the events contain sensitive topics that may make some feel uncomfortable.

There are many major events which have been covered due to space limitations. We acknowledge their existence, and they should not be ignored.




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**DISVISIBILITY WEEK**

**Guest Speaker - Hilary Jenkins**  
**Wednesday, November 23**  
**3pm - 4pm**

**Accessibility in the NMR Lab: Perspectives in Science**

Learn about the continuous effort in making the NMR lab more accessible and recent upgrades! Hilary will also discuss the historical aspects of accessibility through her 30 years of lived experience in science.

Hilary Jenkins received her PhD in chemistry in 1994. She is a research scientist in McMaster's NMR lab, which is one of the largest NMR labs in Canada!



Join to learn about accessibility  
in the MNR Lab!  
[linktr.ee/Maccess](https://linktr.ee/Maccess)



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**DISVISIBILITY WEEK**

**Guest speaker: Roche Keane**  
**Friday, November 25**  
**2pm - 3pm**

**Come chat with Roché Keane**

Roché Keane is black woman and a Master of Social Work student/social worker in the mental health field. She will discuss how to navigate your academic journey as a student with disabilities, and how some of the things you learn as a student can be utilized in the workplace.

Discussion held over zoom. Use the linktree to access:  
[linktr.ee/Maccess](https://linktr.ee/Maccess)

**Maccess' Stress-Relief Paint/Colouring Night**  
**Friday, November 25**  
**5pm - 7pm BSB 138**

A chill night with Maccess for stress-relief, join us for colouring/painting to destress. Supplies and snacks will be provided!

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## Successes

- **Mitch said I can boast about myself and my team here:**
  - First, I was hired early August, so I am proud of myself for getting transitioned and organizing 5 promotional events for McMaster's Welcome Week in 2/3 weeks
  - Then my AD and I had to quickly revamp our disastrous physical space. Before and after:
    - There was food and drinks from 2 years ago 😞



- Despite being hired later and getting the team together later, Maccess launched peer support by the end of October. We operate in hybrid mode too!



- As of today (Nov 20<sup>th</sup>), we have launched 2 in-person events (Meet & Greet, Pumpkin Carving Social), 1 advocacy initiative (Maccess Accessibility Concerns at McMaster Form), attended MSU service fair, and this week we are going to launch DisVisibility and History Week
- Never has there been a week-long event campaign for the Fall semester. We aim to do a campaign each semester. Historically, only one event campaign has launched per year.
- **I would like to think Maccess is kicking ass this year**

### **Current Challenges**

- Getting PSVs and executives to notify us when they are unable to do their tasks
- Promotions budget