Inclusive.

Making Life Better for British Columbians with Disabilities

PRESENTATION TO THE SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES, 2015

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER, 17, 2015 NANAIMO, B.C.

HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF B.C. ROBERT BOSCACCI, PRESIDENT DARRYL MACKIE, TREASURER



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INTRODUCTION

Next year, in 2016, British Columbians will celebrate two historic events.

On September 14, 1916, men voted in a province-wide referendum to give women the right to vote. In twelve months, we will celebrate the centenary the 100-year anniversary - of that welcome event.

On July 30, 1996, Royal Assent was given to Bill 15, the Disability Benefits Program Act. The bill was supported unanimously by all parties in the Legislative Assembly.

Prior to the enactment of Bill 15, individuals suffering from a disability, if they were in need of government assistance, had to declare themselves to be 'permanently unemployable.' The new legislation - now nearly 20 years old - removed disabled British Columbians from the 'welfare system' and gave them greater independence to participate and work in society as a whole.

Both events marked important developments whereby society in general, and B.C. in particular, were becoming more inclusive.

The argument made by suffragettes more than a century ago was that by denying half of the population - women - the right to participate in elections, politics and government, all of society was denied the positive contributions they would make.

So, too, with British Columbians who are disabled. By being more inclusive, our province now is able to reap the contributions from individuals with one or more disabilities who previously were denied the opportunity to play a full and meaningful role at work and elsewhere.

All British Columbians benefit from inclusiveness, whether it is by extending the vote to women, as was done nearly a century ago, or by removing legislative barriers to disabled individuals, as was done in 1996.

According to Statistics Canada, 81.3 per cent of Canadians with a disability used some kind of specialized equipment or assistive device that enabled them to carry out their daily activities or participate in the workforce.¹

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That equipment includes items such as walkers, manual wheelchairs, rollators, power chairs and scooters. Or, it may be devices for personal safety and mobility in the home, including bath equipment, stair-lifts or pressure-relief mattresses.

In British Columbia, nearly all of those specialized devices are designed, fitted and/or provided by the companies that belong to the Home Medical Dealers' Association of British Columbia (HMEDA).

With about two-dozen member companies and approximately 850 employees, HMEDA members work closely with other healthcare professionals, especially occupational therapists, to ensure that the appropriate equipment is provided to individuals in need.

Our member companies also employ trained specialists who prepare, install and service the equipment and devices needed and utilized by disabled British Columbians.

In British Columbia and across Canada, the number of individuals who have one or more disabilities is increasing significantly.

This is largely because our population is aging. According to Statistics Canada, disabilities increase with age.²

In 2012, the number of British Columbians age 15 years and older who had one or more disabilities was counted at more than one-half million - 546,760.

Calculations done by HMEDA - using the same proportion of disabled individuals as reported today by Statistics Canada show that number will be approximately 700,000 in 2020, just five years from now.

By 2031, we forecast that the number of British Columbians with one or more disabilities will be close to 850,000.

With on-going technological and other improvements in equipment and assistive devices, the lives of disabled British Columbians will be much more enjoyable, constructive and fulfilling than they ever have been before.

The contributions made by disabled British Columbians to our province also should continue to grow as inclusiveness continues to demonstrate that it provides benefits for all of society.

At the same time, it must be acknowledged that the growing population of disabled individuals will present new and different challenges for the province, health authorities, and other decision-makers in the public sector.

British Columbia has come a long way to becoming an ever more-inclusive society, as the events in 1916 and 1996 have demonstrated. At the same time, however, we all recognize that more needs to be done, especially when it comes to individuals with disabilities.

HMEDA is dedicated to working with public-policy decisionmakers to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

1. 'Disability in Canada: Initial findings from the Canadian Survey on Disability.' Released in 2013.

2. Canadian Survey on Disability, 'A profile of persons with disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years or older, 2012.' Statistics Canada. Released on March 13, 2015. According to Statistics Canada, 81.3 per cent of Canadians with a disability used some kind of specialized equipment or assistive device that enabled them to carry out their daily activities or participate in the workforce.



BRITISH COLUMBIANS AND DISABILITIES

More than one-half million British Columbians age 15 years and older - 546,740 - live with one or more disabilities, according to a study conducted in 2012 by Statistics Canada.

That total is the third-highest in Canada.

The proportion of British Columbians age 15 and above with a disability - 14.8 per cent - is slightly higher than the national average of 13.7 per cent, and represents one in nearly every seven B.C. residents.

Disabilities increase with age. About one-in-every 10 Canadians (10.1 per cent) between the ages of 15 and 64 has a disability, but that proportion increases to one-inthree (33.2 per cent) for people over 65 years of age.

Indeed, disabilities increase with every age-cohort, rising from 4.4 per cent of Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 years, to 16.1 per cent between 45 and 64 years, and 42.5 per cent for those 75 years and older.

Women also account for a greater proportion of Canadians who live with a disability.

Of individuals between the ages of 15 and 64, 10.7 per cent of women have one or more disabilities, compared to 9.5 per cent for men.

For those Canadians older than age 65, a greater proportion of women have a disability - 35.2 per cent - than do men - 30.8 per cent. The patterns evident across Canada hold true for British Columbia - the prevalence of disabilities increase with age, and a greater proportion of women compared to men live with a disability.

In 2012, the number of British Columbians between the ages of 15 and 64 with a disability totalled 334,800, while the comparable number for those age 65 years and older was 211,960.

The proportion of those individuals age 15 to 64 years with a disability was 10.8 per cent, but for those 65 years and over it was 34.5 per cent.

British Columbia females also are more likely to have one or more disabilities than their male counterparts. Statistics Canada found that 301,460 B.C. women had a disability in 2012, compared to 245,300 men.

A striking finding in the Statistics Canada study done in 2012 was the significant number of British Columbians in the second-half of their working careers who lived with a disability.

Of those individuals between 45 and 64 years of age, a total of 226,450 reported one or more disabilities. That number represents more than two of every five British Columbians who had a disability.

Interestingly, compared to the Canadian average across the country, a greater proportion of British Columbians in every age-cohort reported having a disability.

546,740 BRITISH COLUMBIANS HAD A DISABILITY IN 2012

-STATISTICS CANADA



Chart 1.1 - Prevalence of Disability by Age and Gender, B.C., 2012 (Percentage of British Columbians)



For example, 10.8 per cent of B.C. residents between the ages of 15 and 64 years had one or more disabilities, while the number for Canadians on average was 10.1 per cent.

For British Columbians 65 years and over, as many as 34.5 per cent had a disability, compared to the Canadian average of 33.2 per cent. ***

Statistics Canada found in 2012 a surprisingly large proportion - nearly half - of British Columbians with a disability rated them either as 'severe' or 'very severe.'

For B.C. residents between the ages of 15 and 64, a total of 155,210 reported that their disability was in one of the two 'severe' categories.

That number was 46.4 per cent of the total in that particular age cohort.

Looking again at only the key working-age cohort of 45 to 64, a total of 108,320 British Columbians with one or more disabilities said they either were 'severe' or 'very severe.'

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Table 1.3 - Number and Percentage of Canadians 15 Years and Older with Disabilities, 2012

Provinces and Territories	Persons with Disabilities	Total Population -	Prevalence
	15 Years and Older	15 Years and Older	of Disability
Ontario	1,651,620	10,727,900	15.4%
Quebec	616,740	6,436,930	9.6%
British Columbia	546,760	3,703,010	14.8%
Alberta	369,190	2,945,140	12.5%
Manitoba	145,270	929,650	15.6%
Nova Scotia	143,760	765,100	18.8%
Saskatchewan	116,640	779,150	15.0%
New Brunswick	99,450	606,820	16.4%
Newfoundland and Labrador	59,300	420,970	14.1%
Prince Edward Island	18,840	117,440	16.0%
Yukon	4,070	28,360	14.4%
Northwest Territories	2,740	33,370	8.2%
Nunavut	1,540	22,350	6.9%
Total in Canada	<i>3,775,910</i>	27,516,200	13.7%

(SOURCE: Canadian Survey on Disability, 'A profile of persons with disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years or older, 2012.' Statistics Canada. Released on March 13, 2015.)

Facts & Figures

Chart 1.4 - Disability by Age and Gender, B.C., 2012

60.00% 50.00% 40.00% 30.00% 20.00% 10.00% 0.00% 15 to 24 25 to 44 45 to 64 65 to 74 75 and over (SOURCE: Statistics Canada)

(Proportion of each age-cohort with one or more disabilities)







More than two of every five British Columbians between the ages of 45 and 64 have one or more disabilities.

-STATISTICS CANADA

Table 1.5- Adults with Disabilities by Severity, British Columbia, 2012

Age groups	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	Total
15 to 24	11,020	4,690	6,040	6,440	28,190
25 to 44	27,450	18,300	16,350	18,070	80,160
45 to 64	64,890	53,230	53,070	55,250	226,450
65 to 74	30,000	21,610	22,600	20,100	94,320
75 and over	37,000	22,580	23,470	34,600	117,640
Total - 15 years and over	170,370	120,410	121,530	134,460	546,760

(SOURCE: Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012. Statistics Canada. Released on December 3, 2013.)

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

British Columbia's population growth-rate has slowed in recent years, but it still remains one of the fastest growing in Canada.

In 2014, the province's population was counted at 4,631,300. That represented an increase of more than one-half million people - 554,400 - since the beginning of the 21st century.

The province's data-analysis agency, BC Stats, projects that our population will surpass five million in 2021, and exceed 5.6 million in 2031.

Much of British Columbia's growth will be among older residents.

Consider: between 2001 and 2014, the province's entire population grew by an annual average of 1.0 per cent.

By comparison, among residents age 65 years and older, the growth-rate was 2.9 per cent - or nearly three times greater than the provincial average.

One consequence of a growing and aging population is that the median age of all residents increases over time.

In 2001, the median age of all British Columbians was 37.9 years. Last year, in 2014, the comparable number was 41.9 years. By 2031, the median age in B.C. is projected to be 44.3 years.

Given that older individuals are more likely to experience one or more disabilities than younger people, it may be expected that the total number of British Columbians with a disability will rise significantly.

HMEDA has calculated the potential increase in B.C.'s disabled population for the years leading up to 2031 by using Statistics Canada data for the prevalence of disabilities amongst various age cohorts.

For example, Statistics Canada found in 2012 that the prevalence of disabilities for Canadians between the ages of 15 and 64 years to be 10.8 per cent. With individuals age 65 years and older, the average is 34.5 per cent.

HMEDA has applied those Statistics Canada findings to BC Stats' population projections for the next decade and a half, and we calculate that by 2021, the number of British Columbians with one or more disabilities will be approximately 700,000.

By 2031 - just sixteen years from now - that number will likely grow to 850,000.

Of that latter number, more than one-third - approximately 290,000 individuals - will be 'seniors,' 65 years of age or older.

The home medical equipment industry in B.C. - HMEDA - is mindful of the growing challenge presented by the province's expanding seniors' population, and especially those individuals who seek to maintain personal independence in their own homes.

It is an issue that is expected to increasingly occupy B.C.'s public-policy makers.

In 2021, an estimated 700,000 British Columbians will have one or more disabilities, while by 2031 that number may be expected to grow to 850,000.





Chart 2.1- Median Age of British Columbia Population, Actual and Projected, 2001 to 2031



By 2031, B.C.'s median age is forecast to reach 44.3 years and the median age at death will be 82.7 years.

-BC STATS



Chart 2.2- Median Age at Death of British Columbia Population, Actual and Projected, 2001 to 2031

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THE WORKING DISABLED

The anticipated growth in the prevalence of disabilities in B.C. will be especially noticeable among working-age residents.

That's because the largest number of disabled British Columbians is in the 45-64 age-cohort.

In that group, an estimated 226,450 B.C. residents have one or more disabilities - or 41.4 per cent of the 546,760 disabled British Columbians who were counted in 2012 by Statistics Canada.

By comparison, the number of people in the 25-44 age-cohort with a disability is 80,160 - or 14.7 per cent of the total.

Combined, the number of British Columbians age 25 to 64 years with one or more disabilities is 306.610.

By 2031, according to calculations by HMEDA, that latter number will grow to just over 347,000 - an increase of about 40,000 people.

As might be expected, disabled individuals face special challenges in the work-place.

According to a Statistics Canada study done in 2011, an average of just 49 per cent of Canadians between the ages of 25 and 64

who had a disability were employed, compared to 79 per cent for people without a disability.

The ability to find employment diminished in relation to the severity of an individual's disability.

For Canadians aged 25 to 64 who had a 'mild' disability, the employment rate was 68 per cent, while the rate for those with a 'moderate' disability was down 54 per cent.

The rate declined precipitously for those with 'severe' or 'very severe' disabilities to 42 and 26 per cent respectively. Ċ5.

The number of working-age British Columbians, age 25 to 64 years, in 2012, with one or more disabilities was 306,610.

-STATISTICS CANADA

Table 3.1 - Prevalence of Disability by Age and Gender, British Columbia, 2012

Age groups	Women	Men	All	Proportion
15 to 24	13,810	14,370	28,190	4.8%
25 to 44	46,080	34,080	80,160	6.7%
45 to 64	122,400	104,040	226,450	17.5%
65 to 74	46,410	47,910	94,320	27.3%
75 and over	72,760	44,890	117,640	43.8%
Total - 15 years and over	301,460	245,300	546,760	14.8%

(SOURCE: Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012. Statistics Canada. Released on December 3, 2013.)



CONCLUSION

The Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012, published by Statistics Canada, reported that 546,760 British Columbians had one or more disabilities.

Using previously-published data from Statistics Canada and BC Stats, the Home Medical Equipment Dealers Association of B.C. has calculated that the number of disabled British Columbians by 2031 will be approximately 850,000.

That represents an increase over two decades of about 300,000 individuals.

The increase primarily is due to two factors. First, B.C.'s population is aging, and it is empirically demonstrated that older people are far more likely to have a disability than their younger counterparts.

Second, British Columbia's total population is growing ever-larger.

The combination of an aging and a growing population means that the number of British Columbians with one ore more disabilities is certain to increase.

This forecast represents a challenge for public-policy

makers, insofar as the provincial government and Members of the Legislative Assembly must continue efforts to make British Columbia more inclusive for disabled individuals.

Just as it is certain that B.C.'s disabled population is rising and will continue to do so, it also is undisputed that individuals with a disability can - and do - make valuable contributions to our province and society.

It is imperative that British Columbia continue to develop and implement public policies that encourage the inclusion of all individuals.

That is why HMEDA has prepared this report: to signal our desire and willingness to work collaboratively with policy-makers in finding solutions to the myriad - but not insoluble - challenges that lie ahead.

With about two-dozen member companies and approximately 850 employees, HMEDA is dedicated to ensuring that our province remains a leader in inclusiveness, in celebrating the contribution that all British Columbians make to our common interests and shared well-being. The combination of an aging and a growing population means that the number of British Columbians with one ore more disabilities is certain to increase.

> -CALCULATIONS BY HMEDA



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COMPANES



A-1 Wheelchairs Unlimited Supply #111 - 6360 - 202nd Street Langley, BC, V2Y 1N2 Phone: 604-530-1735 Url: http://www.a-1wheelchairs.ca

Abbey Medical Supplies Ltd. 5-31813 S. Fraserway Way Abbotsford, BC, V2T 1V4 Phone: 604-850-1755 Url: http://www.abbeymedicalsupplies.com

Active Medical Equipment – Kamloops 773 Victoria Street Kamloops, BC, V2C 2B5 Phone: (250) 571-1456 Url: http://www.activeme.ca/

Active Medical Equipment – Penticton 101 - 99 Padmore Avenue E Penticton, BC, V2A 7H7 Phone: (250) 492-2302 Url: http://www.activeme.ca/

Advanced Mobility Products – Burnaby 101-8620 Glenlyon Parkway Burnaby, BC, V5J 0B6 Phone: 604-293-0002 Url: http://www.advancedmobility.ca

Advanced Mobility Products – Nanaimo Unit 4 - 5 2227 Wilgress Road Nanaimo, BC, V9S 4N3 Phone: 250-751-3735 Url: http://www.advancedmobility.ca

Advanced Mobility Products – Kelowna #4 - 1495 Dilworth Drive Kelowna, BC, V1Y 9N5 Phone: 250-860-9920 Url: http://www.advancedmobility.ca

BC Medequip 2230 Springer Ave. Burnaby, BC, V5B 3M7 Phone: 604 888 8811 Url: http://bcmedequip.com

Creative Mobility Products – Cranbrook 8 10th Ave South Cranbrook, BC, V1C2M8 Phone: 888 770 1777 Url: www.creativemobility.ca

Creative Mobility Products – Kelowna #103-171 Commercial Drive Kelowna, BC, V1X 7W2 Phone: 250-765-7740 Url: http://www.creativemobility.ca Creative Mobility Products – Penticton 113-78 Industrial Ave. W. Penticton, BC, V2A 6M2 Phone: 250-492-4435 Url: http://www.creativemobility.ca

Crossroads Mobility Solutions #110-9547-152 St. - Surrey, BC, V3R 5Y5 Phone: 778-395-2221 Url: http://www.crossroadsmobility.net

Davies Home Healthcare 1417 St Georges Ave NorthVancouver, BC, V7L 3J3 Phone: (604) 984 7631 Url: http://daviespharmacy.com

1st Choice Mobility Products Inc 108 - 663 Sumas Way Abbotsford, BC, V2S 7P4 Phone: 604 850-2344

HME Mobility & Accessibility Ltd – Richmond - Unit 130 – 4011 Viking Way Richmond, BC, V6V 2K9 Phone: 604-821-0075 Url: http://www.hmebc.com

HME Mobility & Accessibility – Victoria 2521 Government Street Victoria, BC, V8T 4P6 Phone: 250 386 0075 Url: http://www.hmebc.com

Home2Stay 1B 138 W 6th Ave Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1K6 Phone: +604 259 1211 Url: http://www.home2stay.ca

Home Medical Shop (The) 1070 Cliffe Ave. - Courtenay, BC, V9N 2J7 Phone: 250-338-0903 Url: http://www.thehomemedicalshop.com

Island Mediquip – Courtenay 9 - 204 Old Island Hwy Courtenay, BC, V9N 3P1 Phone: 250 871 0366 Url: http://www.islandmediquip.com

Island Mediquip – Victoria 750 Enterprise Cres. Victoria, BC, V8Z 6R4 Phone: 250-391-0388 Url: www.islandmediquip.com

Island Mediquip – Duncan 580 Cairnsmore St. Duncan, BC, V9L 2A1 Phone: 250-597-0151 Url: www.islandmediquip.com Kootenay Columbia Home Medical Equipment – Cranbrook 250 Slater Road, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 5C8 Phone: 250-426-6600

Kootenay Columbia Home Medical Equipment – Castlegar Unit 130 - 630 17th St Castlegar, BC, V1N 4G7 Phone: 250-365-7772

Life Support Assisted Living Systems 192 West Island Hwy Parksville, BC, V9P 2G5 Phone: (250) 954-0309 Url: http://www.lifesupportstore.ca

Macdonald's Home Health Care 1B - 138 West 6th Ave. Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1K6 Phone: 604-872-5496 Url: http://www.macdonaldshhc.com

Medichair Northern BC 849 - 2nd Avenue Prince George, BC, V2L 3A6 Phone: 250-562-8280 Url: http://www.princegeorge.medichair.com

Motion Specialties – Burnaby 101 – 8255 North Fraser Way Burnaby, BC, V3N 0B9 Phone: 604-321-0009 Url: http://www.motionspecialties.com

Motion Specialties – Nanaimo #106 - 2517 Bowen Road Nanaimo, BC, V9T 3L2 Phone: 250-756-9875 Url: http://www.motionspecialties.com

Motion Specialties – Victoria 1856 Qudra St Victoria, BC, V8T 4B9 Phone: 250-383-3711 Url: http://www.motionspecialties.com

Motion Specialties – Sidney 7, 9764 Fifth St Sidney, BC, V8L 2X2 Phone: 250-656 6228 Url: http://www.motionspecialties.com

Motion Specialties – Duncan Unit 6, 2628 Berverly St. Duncan, BC, V9L 5C7 Phone: 250-709-9939 Url: http://www.motionspecialties.com North Coast Home Medical Equipment #101-4443 Keith Ave. - Terrace, BC, V8G 1J7 Phone: 250-638-1301 Url: http://www.nchme.ca

Northwest Independent Living Services 1434 Ironwood St, Suite 381 Campbell River, BC, V9W5T5 Phone: 800 592 0078 Url: http://www.nwindependent.com

PG Surg Med – Vernon 4206 - 25th Avenue - Vernon, BC, V1T 1P4 Phone: 250-549-7288 Url: http://www.pgsurgmed.com

PG Surg Med – Prince George 1749 Lyon Street Prince George, BC, V2N 1T3 Phone: 250-564-2240 Url: http://www.pgsurgmed.com

Priority Posture 4306 Norfolk St. - Burnaby, BC, V5G 4J9 Phone: (604) 929-9645 Url: http://www.priorityposture.ca

Regency Medical Supplies 4437 Canada Way Burnaby, BC, V5G1J3 Phone: 604-434-1383 Url: http://www.regencymed.com

Selfcare Home Health Products Ltd – Vancouver - 43 West 6th Avenue Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1K2 Phone: 604-872-5800 Url: http://www.selfcarehome.com

Selfcare Home Health Products Ltd – North Vancouver 1340 Pemberton Ave North Vancouver, BC, V7P 2R7 Phone: 604-990-9422 Url: http://www.selfcarehome.com

Selfcare Home Health Products Ltd – Surrey Unit 4, 17675 66th Avenue Surrey, BC, V3S 7X1 Phone: 604-574-5801 Url: http://www.selfcarehome.com

Shoppers Home Health Care – Vancouver 2790 Oak Street Vancouver, BC, V6H 0A5 Phone: 604 739-4645 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca Shoppers Home Health Care – Vancouver (East Broadway) Kingsgate Mall #202 - 370 East Broadway Vancouver, BC, V5T 4G5 Phone: 604 876 4186 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca

Shoppers Home Health Care – Burnaby #101-8289 N. Fraser Way Burnaby, BC, V3N 0B9 Phone: 778-328-8324 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca

Shoppers Home Health Care – Surrey Nordel Crossing Mall 12080 Nordel Way Surrey, BC, V3W 1P6 Phone: 604 597-2097 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca

Shoppers Home Health Care – White Rock 15182 North Bluff Road White Rock, BC, V4B 3E5 Phone: 604 538 3400 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca

Shoppers Home Health Care – Langley Langley Crossing #304 - 6339 – 200th St. Langley, BC, V2Y 1A2 Phone: 604 514-9987 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca

Shoppers Home Health Care – Kelowna 1835 Gordon Drive Kelowna, BC, V1Y 3H4 Phone: 250 717-1850 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca

Shoppers Home Health Care – Victoria 1561 Hillside Avenue Victoria, BC, V8T 2C1 Phone: 250 370-2984 Url: http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca

Southward Medical Supplies #8 - 2601 Hwy 6 Vernon, BC, V1T 5G4 Phone: 250 542 3334 Url: www.southwardmedicalsupplies.ca

Tri City Home Medical Equipment 1110-1368 Kingsway Ave. Port Coquitlam, BC, V3C 6P4 Phone: 604-945-0980 Url: www.tricityhomemedicalequipment.com



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