MARY AND PHILIP SEEMAN HEALTH LAW, POLICY & ETHICS SEMINAR SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF LAW

Consistently excluded: A disability inclusion analysis of Canada's COVID-19 policies

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Commentators: Sarah Jama, Disability Justice Network of Ontario; Gabrielle Peters, Dignity Denied

Thursday, March 3, 2022: 12:30-2 pm

Online via zoom: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_djp-TjEKQJGngNdXmVqZNw

Our recent research report found that COVID-19 exposed pre-existing systemic exclusion of people with disabilities from policy planning and decision-making. Inequities faced by people with disabilities have intensified during the pandemic in many areas including income, housing, food security and violence. The impacts of COVID-19 and related policies can be best understood through an intersectional disability inclusive framework that considers the experiences of diverse groups of disabled people, including those who are racialized, Indigenous, low-income, women, and people living in congregate settings. These groups face cumulative and cascading barriers that shape their experiences during COVID-19. Policy responses must include disability leaders and organizations that represent the diversity of people with disabilities in Canada and address the exposed gaps.

The research report & fact sheets are available at: https://liveworkwell.ca/disability-inclusion-analysis-covid-19

Deborah Stienstra holds the Jarislowsky Chair in Families and Work at the University of Guelph, where she is the Director of the Live Work Well Research Centre and Professor of Political Science. She is the author of *About Canada: Disability Rights* (Fernwood, 2020). Her research and publications explore the intersections of disabilities, gender, childhood, and Indigenousness, identifying barriers to, as well as possibilities for, engagement and transformative change. Her work also contributes to comparative and trans/international research and theory related to intersectional disability rights and justice.

Valérie Grand'Maison is a Ph.D Candidate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Guelph, and a research assistant at the Live Work Well Research Centre. Her research focuses on how diverse women with disabilities survive, thrive, and resist the multiple and intersecting structures that shape their lives. She is particularly interested in the relationship between gender-based violence and structural violence, activism, and justice in the lives of diverse women with disabilities in Canada and transnationally.