

“My client’s speech was difficult to understand and she had difficulty processing what people were saying. The assistance of a communication intermediary was invaluable as it ensured that the parties had an accurate understanding of her responses and it provided her with a voice in her claim for compensation.”

Jason D. Singer, Personal Injury Lawyer,
Singer Kwinter



Communication Intermediary Roster

Find a CDAC trained Communication Intermediary at:
www.access-to-justice.org/p/comm_intermediary_roster

Communication Access Resources

For police, legal, justice professionals and people with communication disabilities

www.access-to-justice.org

Contact CDAC for:

- Communication Intermediary trainings for speech-language pathologists
- Educational programs for police, legal and justice services
- Consultation services on communication access to justice

CDAC acknowledges a funding contribution for the Communication Intermediary Project from the Government of Canada, Department of Justice, Victims Fund:

Canada

Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) is a national, non-profit, charitable organization.

CDAC promotes human rights, accessibility and inclusion for people who have speech and language disabilities.

www.cdacanada.com

CDAC is a registered Charity: 87160 1712 RR0001



Communication Disabilities
Access Canada

Email: admin@cdacanada.com



Communication Access to Justice

for people who have speech
and language disabilities



Communication Disabilities
Access Canada



Communication intermediary assists with communication at legal meeting

Communication Intermediaries

Communication Intermediaries are qualified speech-language pathologists with additional training from CDAC to assist people with speech and language disabilities communicate in legal and justice settings.

A Communication Intermediary can:

- Explain how a person communicates
- Clarify a person's level of understanding
- Assist the person to understand questions
- Assist the person to communicate their answers
- Protect the integrity of a person's communication

Similar to other accessibility services, the organization contracts an intermediary to accommodate an individual's needs as required by human rights legislation.

“One of my clients communicated by looking at pictures on a board. A communication intermediary helped the court understand his responses to questions during cross-examination.”

Elise Nakelsky, Crown Counsel

Accessibility includes Communication

Police, legal and justice services must be accessible to everyone, including people who have speech and language disabilities.

Speech and language disabilities can be caused by cerebral palsy, autism, cognitive disability, traumatic brain injury, learning disability, stroke, dementia, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and other conditions.

Without appropriate accessibility accommodations, many people with communication disabilities can experience major barriers that can have serious consequences.

They may require communication support when:

- Making disclosures to police
- Giving reliable testimony in court
- Expressing opinions at legal meetings
- Giving informed consent
- Participating at capacity evaluations

Using a Communication Intermediary

A Communication Intermediary may be required if an individual has a communication disability that makes it difficult for them to:

- speak
- understand what is said
- express thoughts in a clear manner

Or if they:

- use pictures, symbols, a board or device to communicate
- require a neutral, arms-length, qualified person to assist with communication