

Recommendations for Mobility Device Access in Ontario

*Ryan MacDonald, Mike Smolinski, Tingyu Zhang
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About the Client:

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario



The objective of SCI Ontario is to provide client-centred support to people living with long-term disabilities. SCI believes that better and more affordable access to assistive devices gives those who suffer from spinal cord injuries the capacity to effectively participate and be included in society. By focusing on excellent care and client-centred service, making the most efficient use of resources, and enabling access to essential assistive devices and technology, SCI Ontario can better support their surrounding community.

About the Project:

Project Scope:

PGI will assist SCI Ontario in evaluating the current process for accessing mobility devices in Ontario. Our team of consultants will provide research and analysis capacity to analyze current mobility device policies and make policy recommendations to improve outcomes for individuals seeking such devices. This will be accomplished through a jurisdictional scan, policy review and interviews with stakeholders that will build upon SCI Ontario's 2013 review of the Assistive Devices Program. The results of this research will be presented in a final report, including specific policy recommendations, and a slide deck to be presented to relevant government officials and stakeholder

Project Rationale:

This project will provide SCI Ontario with a comprehensive evidence base to guide its position on mobility device policies, and the products to effectively communicate those positions to government officials and other stakeholders. Ultimately, it will facilitate system change and introduce new resource opportunities for people with SCI accessing mobility devices in Ontario.

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Methodology:

- **Phase 1** – Review of Ontario’s Assistive Devices Program and other relevant provincial legislation:
 - The review includes formal legislation, internal and external evaluations of policies, and a media scan.
 - Created a process map for accessing mobility devices in Ontario.
- **Phase 2** – Jurisdictional scan and literature review of best practices for mobility device programs:
 - Investigates the programs and policies of other jurisdictions, both within Canada and abroad, for providing individuals with SCIs with access to mobility devices.
- **Phase 3** – Interviews with stakeholders:
 - Interview community members, industry representatives and authorizers.
- **Phase 4** – Preparation of final report and presentation

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES

- Final Report, informed by an analysis of Ontario’s current Assistive Devices Program and other relevant provincial regulations, a review of similar programs from other jurisdictions within and outside of Canada, and interviews with key stakeholders
- Position Paper with specific recommendations concerning Ontario’s mobility device policies informed by the research report
- A slide deck to be presented to the Ontario Government

PROJECT IMPACT

- Research of relevant policy and the formalization of feedback and recommendations from key stakeholders will assist Spinal Cord Injury Ontario in prioritizing its recommendations to the Ontario Government for making the necessary changes to the Assistive Devices Program to better serve the people of Ontario.

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