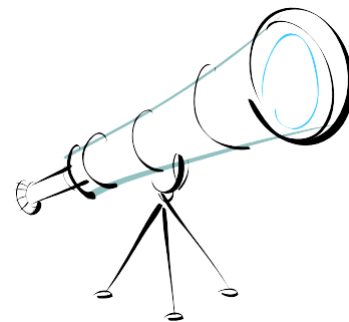


## THE DISABILITY LENS



The following questions are derived from “Tips for policy analysis” in McColl & Jongbloed (2006) Disability and social policy in Canada (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Toronto: Captus Press. They are intended to provide a quick, easy guide for analyzing disability policy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to these questions, but each has important implications for people with disabilities. For more information, please see [www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca](http://www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca).

1. Does the policy specifically mention people with disabilities? Are there provisions pertaining specifically to disabled people?
2. If so, how is disability defined? Who is included / excluded from consideration under the policy? Who decides who qualifies as disabled? Does the definition conform with a particular model of disability (eg., biomedical, social, charitable)?
3. What does the policy aim to achieve?
  - a. Equity – freedom from discrimination
  - b. Access – ability to participate
  - c. Support – resources to address special needs
4. Does the policy aim to enforce individual rights or collective responsibilities?
5. Does the policy view disabled people as members of a minority group with special needs, or does it view disability as one of many variables in the population, and thus aim to structure society so as to ensure universal access / coverage?
6. Does the policy aim to provide for a special need associated with a disability, or does it aim to provide the same thing to all citizens? Does it aim to achieve:
  - a. Outcome equity – whatever it takes to achieve equal outcomes with non-disabled;
  - b. Vertical equity – special considerations to create equal opportunity for disabled people;
  - c. Horizontal equity – equal treatment; treating disabled people the same as everyone else.
7. How does the policy relate to other policies (legislation, regulations, programs) in the jurisdiction – in the same Ministry, in other Ministries; including both disability-specific and non-disability-specific policy? What about other jurisdictions (national, provincial, regional, municipal)? (For a review of disability policy by jurisdiction across Canada, see: <http://www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca/latest-news/2013-review-of-disability-policy-in-canada.html>)
8. Who wins and who loses when this policy is implemented? How is the allocation of scarce resources affected by this policy? What would be the impact on: other disability groups; Business / private sector; other minority groups; other citizens generally / taxpayers?
9. How did this policy come into effect? What is the history associated with it? Who were the champions / detractors? Where might one anticipate support / opposition?