International Certification of Accessibility Consultants – Built Environment

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Canada

Parallel Session: Standards, Manuals, Toolboxes

Thursday - February 22, 2018 13:10pm
About GAATES

Canadian registered non-profit NGO dedicated to the promotion and implementation of accessibility of the built and virtual environments, following the Guiding Principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("UN CRPD"), adopted in December 2006.

Active presence in 6 regions: the Asia-Pacific, Arab, North America, South America, European and African Regions.

GAATES is not a charitable organization but self-funded through project work and programming.
GAATES Programming

Country Representative Program
GAATES is working with a number of Country Representatives from around the globe and is currently seeking experienced Country Representatives in several new regions.

October 2017 GAATES issued the Country Rep Toolkit which ensures consistency of work carried out on behalf of the organization.

Link to apply is on our website at: http://gaates.org/gaates-country-representative-program
GAATES Programming

Design of Public Spaces – Online Education
GAATES offers an online course providing a comprehensive orientation to the Design of Public Spaces based on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Integrated Accessibility Standard.

This standard is recognized as the most progressive in Canada for the exterior environment.

GAATES is seeking partners to further develop further training opportunities based on both ISO and regional standards.

To apply visit our website at http://gaates.org/gaates-design-of-public-spaces-on-line-course/
Canadian Rights-Based Legislation

Canada ratified the UN CRPD, March 2010, and the Optional Protocol was presented in Canadian Parliament on November 30, 2017

Federally:
In 2017 Canadian government concluded public consultations as part of the process to develop a Canadian Disabilities Act.
Currently governed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Provincially:
Some provinces have started to develop disability rights legislation. Those currently in place include:

• Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
• Quebec -Loi assurant l’exercice des droits des personnes handicapées en vue de leur intégration scolaire, professionnelle et sociale
• Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)
Canadian Building Codes and Standards

National Building Code (NBC)
• The NBC is a national model-code, directly adopted by some Provinces, and is used by other provinces to help promote consistency among building regulations.

Provincial Building Codes
• British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec have developed provincial building codes based on the format of the NBC with enhanced accessibility requirements.
• Remaining provinces and territories have adopted the NBC.

Canadian Standards Association
• CAN/CSA B651 Accessibility of the Built Environment Standard
ISO Accessibility Standards – Built Environment

ISO 21542 Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment
- Developed by industry leaders in design, disability and education who were appointed by over 25 countries.
- The standard is considered leading edge – not made in compromises
- Initial standard took 7 years to finalize and publish; it is now under review

Other applicable ISO Standards referenced in the Built Environment
- ISO/TC 145 - Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours
- ISO 23599 – Assistive products for blind and persons with vision impairment — Tactile walking surface indicators

ISO Committee Meeting
International Certification of Accessibility Consultants – Built Environment (ICAC-BE) Program

The lack of an international certification program has allowed people with little or no training or experience to present themselves as accessibility experts. This has led to uneven code application and sometimes inadequate and inappropriate design solutions.

Program provides:

• recognition of technical knowledge;
• recognition of experience; and
• credibility in the field of accessibility consulting for the built environment.
International Certification of Accessibility Consultants – Built Environment (ICAC-BE) Program

The ICAC-BE program is not a training program but one that recognizes and certifies the credentials of individuals.

Limited space remaining for the next quarterly round of evaluations in early April 2018.

Evaluations are based on ISO 21542 Standard: Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment, the UN CRPD, and principles of Universal Design.

The program follows the ISO 17024 Standard: General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons.

GAATES will seek ISO Accreditation of the program in 2018/2019.
"Achieving Level 1 certification enables me to build my accessibility consulting services, and I have set the goal to continue to improve professionally and seek the next level of certification in the near future."

Successful ICAC-BE Level 1 Applicant

“This certification has already improved my ability to market my accessibility consulting services.”

Successful ICAC-BE Level 2 Applicant

“The recognition of the work that I’ve completed over the past 20 years during my accessibility consulting career has provided another boost to my ongoing practice.”

Successful ICAC-BE Level 3 Applicant

“I would not hesitate to recommend Consultants successful in this program to those hiring accessibility services.”

Expert Panel Member
International Certification of Accessibility Consultants – Built Environment (ICAC-BE) Program

Full program details available on our website at www.gaates.org/certification

Applications can be started on-line or by emailing: certification@gaates.org

Currently accepting CVs to be a member of our Expert Panel group. Interested applicants can provide credentials to: certification@gaates.org

For any further details or questions please feel free to email me: tracey.shipman@gaates.org