

November 2, 2018

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough  
Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**Re: Bill C-81 - The Accessible Canada Act**

Dear Minister:

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCIO) co-leads the Ontario Spinal Cord Injury Alliance with the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. We are a network of 70 organizations and 250+ members with a mandate to address and resolve systemic barriers that impact the quality of life of people with spinal cord injuries in Ontario. We are writing to you with the following recommendations:

- 1. Accept the recommendations produced by the Federal Accessibility Legislation Alliance (FALA) for C- 81;**
- 2. Ensure C- 81 is passed prior to the next election as per the Liberal Party's promise during the last election campaign; and**
- 3. Work directly with FALA on the implementation of C- 81 once the bill is passed**

SCIO is a proud member of FALA and was an active participating partner in Spinal Cord Injury Canada's Canadian Access and Inclusion Project (CAIP) in 2016. Over the last 3 years we have enjoyed a rigorous and comprehensive process of inclusion from Spinal Cord Injury Canada's leadership. We can confidently say that CAIP and FALA have truly and efficiently captured the voices of people with disabilities across Canada and that their recommendations are an honest reflection of what Canadians want. Our community has been offering best advice, direction, and contributing to specific input to the FALA Leadership. The recommendations put forward by FALA have the endorsement of our community.

We have also been working with ARCH and The AODA Alliance and endorse many of their recommendations. SCIO has always believed in a partnership between government and community organizations and that we need to share the responsibilities and accountabilities of important legislations like Bill C-81.

We look forward to a positive relationship with your government and continued effort to ensure the voices of our communities are heard.

Thank you for your leadership and please do not hesitate to contact me if SCIO can assist in any way with the passage of this critically important legislation.

Yours Truly,



Dr. Stuart Howe  
Chief Executive Officer