

Overview of the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT) and GTA Disability Coalition (GTADC) for Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee's Monday June 23rd, 2025 Meeting

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto is a community-based resource organization run by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. Our vision is to contribute to the achievement of social and economic equity in collaboration with people with disabilities through an inclusive approach, through the principles of the Independent Living approach which are:

Self-governance, self-help, self-determination, community (grass roots) based, choice, control, autonomy, empowerment.

Our programs include:

- ASAC (Attendant Service Application Centre)
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Direct Funding
- Inclusion of Disability Equity and Access
- GTA Disability Coalition
- Parenting With a Disability Network
- Peer Support
- Service Navigation

Learn more by visiting us at: <https://cilt.ca/>

GTA Disability Coalition, a project of CILT's, is a grassroots network of disability-focused organizations that formed in 2018 in response to the critical need to advance the equity, rights, and full inclusion of disabled people and Deaf people across the GTA, through a coalition building approach. Funded by United Way Greater Toronto, we primarily engage with Toronto City Council, City divisions and the nonprofit sector to deliver systems change solutions that ground accessibility and equity. We also work across layers of government to address ongoing inequities that stem from inequitable social policy.

Our key priority areas are: Disability income insecurity and poverty, inaccessible and unaffordable housing, TTC inaccessibility and unaffordability.

The GTADC brings together a diverse membership of Deaf and disabled organizational partners, including: Accessible Housing Network (AHN), Alliance for the Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC – Toronto Chapter), Autistics for Autistics (A4A), BALANCE for Blind Adults, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), Centre for Independent Living in Toronto

(C.I.L.T.), Ecohesian, Empowerment Council (CAMH), Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario (ERDCO), ODSP Action Coalition, Ontario Disability Coalition, Silent Voice Canada, Toronto Neighbourhood Centres (TNC) and Working for Change.

Learn more by visiting us at:

<https://cilt.ca/programs-and-services/gta-disability-coalition/>

Presenting from the GTADC are:

David Meyers, CILT's Senior Manager of Independent Living Programs and Lead for the GTADC

I am a Black, cis gender man with a disability who has lived as a grateful settler in Toronto for over 20 years. I worked for over 15 years in Toronto's neighbourhood centre sector to help advance systems change progress on big issues our city's vulnerable populations endure such as deep poverty and housing, transit and healthcare disparities. This work also involved engaging with Toronto City Council committees and other City divisions to influence inclusive policy making and community investments.

Since joining CILT in 2018, I've thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with disabled people, the GTA Disability Coalition and other rights-based networks like The Accessible Housing Network and Social Planning Toronto, to influence Toronto becoming a more equitable, affordable and accessible city where disabled people are included as full city citizens. There is still more than enough work ahead to realize this goal.

Kim Adlard (she/they), Coordinator - GTA Disability Coalition

As coordinator of the GTADC, I work closely with an incredible team of organizational partner leads that branch across disability communities throughout the GTA. Prior to my role with the GTADC, I had the honour of serving as CILT's COVID 19 Vaccine Engagement Coordinator, which was connected to the City of Toronto's COVID 19 response. My work involved supporting a cross-disability and intersectional group of organizational partners and community ambassadors who led vaccine outreach throughout their communities to ensure that community members received accessible communications, barrier free vaccines, and other accessible support. While I was engaging in this crucial work, I was a student in TMU's Disability Studies program and graduated in 2024. Along with working at CILT, this meaningful learning experience, with my 25+ years of other community sector work, and my lived experience of acquired disability has informed the disability justice work I do today.