

## **International Certification of Accessibility Consultants - Built Environment - Establishing Expectations and Recognition of Universal Design Accessibility Consultants**

### **Presentation abstract**

There is a global need to identify and classify through certification, the wide range of knowledge and expertise among people who work in the field of universal design and accessibility consulting in the built environment.

International and national accessibility codes and standards as well as disability rights legislation, including the UN CRPD, are complex. It is imperative that designers, architects, engineers, and clients are able to identify professionals in this field with the appropriate level of knowledge and skill for their projects.

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.

The identified need for validation of those working in the field was recognized by GAATES who has filled this important gap. Significant development time, with contributions from recognized global leaders, has resulted in the first ever international-level certification program for built environment accessibility consultants, with evaluation based on both regional practices and international ISO standards: the International Certification of Accessibility Consultants – Built Environment (ICAC-BE) program.

Members of the ICAC-BE Expert Panel, with international experience in public, private, and social sectors and representing a worldwide vision of what constitutes a universally designed and accessible built environment, will share their experiences. An overview of the first year of operations for this unique program will be presented with tips and strategies from the Expert Panel members on how to successfully achieve certification.

**Lead speaker :** Marnie Peters

**Organisation :** Global Alliance on Accessible Technology and Environments

**City (Country) :** Ottawa(Canada)

**Biography :** As an accessibility consultant and member of GAATES' ICAC-BE Expert Panel, Marnie brings the personal experience of a person with a disability, combined with nearly 20 years of cross-disability experience in the field. She has been the project manager on multiple complex Universal Design and auditing projects, and participated as a project team member on many others. Marnie is skilled at conducting architectural drawing reviews, participating in accessibility guidelines development, and conducting internal and external presentations. She has developed comprehensive code comparison matrices, and participated in the development of accessibility standards. Marnie's multi-disciplinary experience and collaborative nature, along with her fundamental belief that universal design and accessibility provide the foundation necessary for all good design, ensures she consistently addresses the needs persons with disabilities while respecting the client's design.



**2nd speaker :**

**Organisation :**

**City (Country) : ( )**

**Biography :**