



World Summit on Accessible Tourism

Destinations for All

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The personal attendant for leisure (PAL) card. A tool to support the participation of people with disabilities in leisure, cultural and tourism activities

Presentation by the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec

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Outline (1/2)

- PAL card
- Objectives
- Framework for government action
- Work plan
- Interdepartmental initiatives

Outline (2/2)

- Characteristics of PAL
- Eligibility requirements
- Simplified access
- Perspectives

PAL card



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- Free admission for personal attendants by partners from leisure, culture and tourism which recognize it

Objectives

- Increase participation in these activities in conditions equivalent to those of other citizens
- Eliminate supplementary fees
- Support the practice of activities to improve physical and mental health

Framework for government action (1/2)

- Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (2004)
- Government policy entitled Equals in Every Respect: Because Rights are Meant to be Exercised (2009)

Framework for government action (2/2)

- Equals in Every Respect policy: increase social participation
- Three major challenges, including:
 - A society that respects choices and needs
- 11 intervention priorities, including:
 - Making structured attendant services available

Work plan (1/2)

- Attendants: a vast and complex project
 - Consultation of the self-directed community action movement for persons with disabilities (MACA-PH)
- Adoption of an action plan by the board of directors of the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
 - 4 objectives: tangible gains

Work plan (2/2)



Priority objective

- Ensure recognition of the need for attendants
 - Issuance and consolidation of a card
 - Step-by-step approach: leisure, culture and tourism
 - Sustainable funding
 - Simple and credible awarding process

Interdepartmental initiatives (1/2)

- Formation of a committee composed of the government partners concerned
- Analysis of existing attendant formats
 - Tourism and leisure attendant sticker (VATL): an inspiring model
 - some 25,000 people with disabilities have stickers
 - recognized by approximately 1500 partners

Interdepartmental initiatives (2/2)



- Proposals
 - Optimized version of VATL
 - Creation of PAL

Characteristics of PAL (1/3)

- Government funding
 - Government action plan for economic inclusion and social participation 2017-2023
- Managed by a provincial organization stemming from MACA-PH, recreation component

Characteristics of PAL (2/3)

- Free of charge
 - Free and voluntary membership of private, community, municipal and institutional partners
- Choice of attendant
 - Decision of the person with a disability

Characteristics of PAL (3/3)

- Personalized card
 - Offered free of charge
 - Renewable every 5 years

Eligibility requirements (1/2)

- Be a person with a disability within the meaning of the Act
 - Person with a deficiency causing a significant and persistent disability, who is liable to encounter barriers in performing everyday activities.
- Be 5 years old and over

Eligibility requirements (2/2)

- Need an attendant for at least one of the following reasons:
 - eating
 - moving about
 - communicating
 - personal care
 - carrying out the activity
 - enjoying the activity safely

Simplified access (1/2)

- Option 1

Pre-established proof of eligibility:

- certain government programs
- tax measures
- other applicable attendant cards

Simplified access (2/2)

- Option 2

Authentication of the application form by a health and social services professional

Perspectives (1/3)

- Availability of PAL within the coming months
- Promotion of PAL
 - Increase the number of applicants
 - Increase the number of free-of-charge partners
- Benefits assessment (medium- and long-term)

Perspectives (2/3)

- Achievement of the other attendant objectives of the work plan
- Needs recognition
 - Harmonization of transportation practices
- Response to unfulfilled "specialized" needs
 - Identification of possible solutions

Perspectives (3/3)

- Support for quality practices
 - Critical inventory of available training
- Strengthening of the gains in government programs and services
 - Advisory support

Thank you for your attention



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