

LORI'S STORY

I was born with a spinal cord injury, but have only been in a wheelchair for the past five years. Through the years, I have had many surgeries, but I never imagined that I'd end up in a chair.

When I returned to Fort St John from GF Strong Rehabilitation Center, it was quite emotional. I realized for the first time that everyday tasks I had taken for granted before, would now be very difficult.

While I have always been active in the community even before I couldn't walk, after I returned to FSJ, I become determined to make life for myself and others with spinal cord injuries and mobility issues better. I am very active in helping our community become more accessible and inclusive and feel education and awareness is the key to achieving that goal.

Many times in these past five years, I have been unable to park because someone has illegally taken an accessible spot. It's very frustrating not to be able to go where you need to.

I hope you will join us in raising awareness that accessible parking is a necessity for people with disabilities not a luxury.



December is Accessible Parking Awareness Month.

Please leave designated parking stalls for the people who need them.

Accessibility For All

For more information:

www.SPARC.bc.ca

Or

Lori Slater,

Chair, Mayor's Disability Advisory Committee:

(250) 787-1912

Accessible Parking Awareness Campaign



This Public Awareness Campaign is brought to you by
The Mayor's Disability Advisory Committee
Together, Bringing Down the Barriers

People take their independence for granted; when you take an accessible parking spot, and don't need it; you are taking the ability to carry out everyday tasks away from someone who lives with a disability

The fundamental principle behind designated parking spots is the right of all people to have access to the community. For some individuals, designated parking is the only way to gain this access.

We can't control the challenges we are given but we can control the way we deal with them.

Frequently asked Questions

What is the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities?

The Parking Permit Program, operated by SPARC BC, issues parking permits to enable people with disabilities to legally park in designated zones throughout British Columbia. Since 1985 the program has worked to ensure accessibility for all.

Why do people with disabilities need special parking?

Special parking allows people with disabilities to have access to buildings and services in the community. The people who qualify for parking permits either need the extra width of the special stalls to get in and out of their vehicles when using a wheelchair, crutches, a cane, or other mobility aid, or need to park close to a building entrance because their health prevents them from walking very far.

What is considered abuse of an accessible parking spot or placard?

Some common examples of abuse are:

- ☞ Improperly displaying the placard
- ☞ People using expired placards
- ☞ People without mobility impairments using someone else's placard
- ☞ People with no placard using a designated stall

Justine's Story

I was born just like any other child but at age 14 months I ended up with brain damage because of a virus. I am now totally dependant on others for my care.

My caregivers push me in my wheelchair and I have an adapted rear access wheelchair van. It really helps me and my caregiver a lot to have accessible parking available because sometimes it is hard to push me, especially in winter.

Many times though we don't even take the accessible spaces because we want to leave them for people who don't have help and have to wheel their own chairs. So my thought is if we sometimes don't even use the spaces then most definitely people without mobility issues should not!



Accessibility For All