



THE DISABILITY LENS

Jongbloed (2006) Disability and social policy in Canada (2nd ed.). Toronto: Captus Press. They are intended to provide a quick, easy guide for analyzing disability policy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to these questions, but each has important implications for people with disabilities. For more information, please see www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca.

1. Does the policy specifically mention people with disabilities? Are there provisions pertaining specifically to disabled people?
2. If so, how is disability defined? Who is included / excluded from consideration under the policy? Who decides who qualifies as disabled? Does the definition conform with a particular model of disability (eg., biomedical, social, charitable)?
3. What does the policy aim to achieve?
 - a. Equity → freedom from discrimination
 - b. Access → ability to participate
 - c. Support → resources to address special needs
4. Does the policy aim to enforce individual rights or collective responsibilities?
5. Does the policy view disabled people as members of a minority group with special needs, or does it view disability as one of many variables in the population, and thus aim to structure society so as to ensure universal access / coverage?
6. Does the policy aim to provide for a special need associated with a disability, or does it aim to provide the same thing to all citizens? Does it aim to achieve:
 - a. Outcome equity → whatever it takes to achieve equal outcomes with non-disabled;
 - b. Vertical equity → special considerations to create equal opportunity for disabled