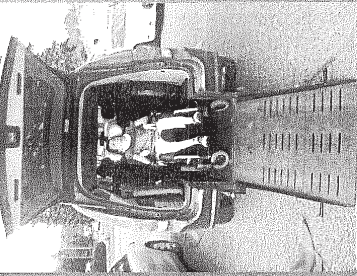


Morgan's Story



When I was born I was a happy, healthy child, but in my first year I came in contact with a virus that has left me both a quadriplegic and deafblind. Although I would rather do it myself, I now receive complete care from others 24/7.

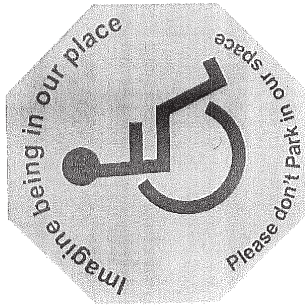
I can only get around in a wheelchair and my van is set up specifically for me. When I was younger I had a van with a side lift. I now use a rear access van.

With a side lift it was always important to park at the end of a row. My caregiver needed another 10 feet for the lift to come out and space for me to exit the lift. With the rear access wheelchair van I have now it is easier to park as we don't require as much space beside us. We just need to make sure we have enough space behind for the lift so I can roll out.

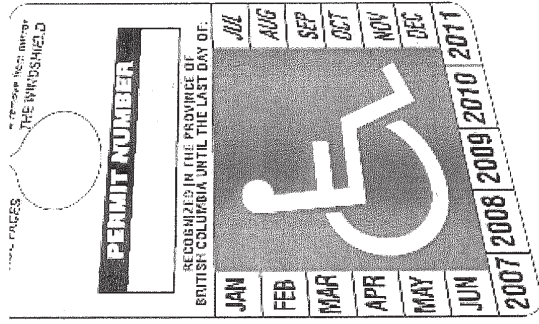
I'm trying to do more in the community. Like shopping, we go hiking on the trails and I have deliveries to make. For me to do any of this means that I need an accessible parking space.

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

Be Aware Show you Care



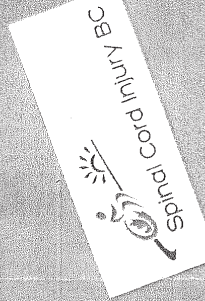
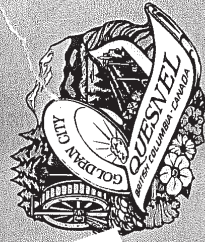
Accessible Parking Awareness Campaign



"One of the most important things I've learned is that we can all positively impact the lives of people around us every day. You may not even know when you've made that difference, but believe me, it happens!"
Rick Hansen, Rick Hansen Foundation

This Public Awareness Campaign is brought to you by The Disabled Citizens of Quesnel

Together, Bringing Down the Barriers



For more information:

www.SPARC.bc.ca

(888) 718-7794

Alison Duddy

(250) 249-0027

Or

Lynn Turner

(250) 992-9886

Seniors Advocacy Svc.

(250) 992-9330

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. Municipal permits available through the Senior's Advocacy Service.

Why do people with disabilities need special parking?

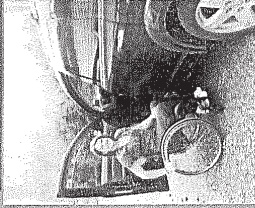
Special parking allows people with disabilities to have access to buildings and services in the community. The people who qualify for parking permits either need the extra width of the special stalls to get in and out of their vehicles when using a wheelchair, crutches, a cane, or other mobility aid, 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
- ☞ Transporting someone with a mobility impairment and using a designated stall

Alison's Story



In 1987, I was a Grade 12 student looking forward to graduation and starting life on my own.

One evening in mid-November, my family and I were on our way to Prince George for dinner when we were involved in an automobile accident caused by treacherous road conditions. I sustained an injury to my spinal cord that left me a paraplegic, requiring the use of a wheelchair.

That was almost 25 years ago, and since then I have learned to adapt to life's daily challenges.

One of the many challenges that is both frustrating and re-occurring for me, is accessible parking. Over the years, I have often been unable to park because someone has illegally taken an accessible space. As a result, there have been times when I have just gone home, failing to complete my errands.

I am very active in helping our community become more accessible and inclusive and feel education and awareness is key to achieving that goal.

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

Accessibility For All