being seen

Directives for creating authentic and inclusive content

> " Canada presents itself as this amazingly inclusive and progressive society so why not try to be more of a leader in that space? I was pretty excited to participate in this ['Being Seen'] because disabled people seem like the last to be on the big screen. "

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

+   The People with Disabilities communities are diverse and made up of many identities and orientations, as demonstrated by the variety of titles in the Word Cloud earlier. The communities are also intersectional and consist of many Black, People of Colour and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Each disability is also diverse in how it is experienced by each individual. Review character descriptions to ensure that the diversity of these communities and disabilities is being reflected.

+   Disabilities are not always visible. Do not default to visible disabilities as a substitute for representation.

+   Consult with experts within the specific disability community being represented to ensure accurate representation. Remember that if hiring a consultant or engaging a creative from that community, their experience is likely to be limited to their own personal experience with the disability.

+   Remember that 22% of Canadians live with disability. Consider the speaking roles and background roles to ensure that there is representation.

+   While there is still a need for some trauma-centred stories, are there other yet-to-be-told stories reflecting the lived experiences of People with Disabilities that could be created or greenlit?

+   Before centering or casting a white man in the role of a person with a disability,

consider whether it is necessary to the story.

+ Are the characters stereotypes? Can those stereotypes be subverted or do they need to be thrown out?

Quick Fact

In 2017, 22% of Canadians had one or more disabilities.

Further Reading

[Dear Everybody Position Paper](), Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Centre, 2017

http://www.bso-ben.ca/beingseen

Financial Contributors