

AT Banter Podcast Episode 287 - Talking Accessibility

Fri, 5/27 8:12AM 49:01

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

disability, people, accessibility, accessible, lis, ada, happening, ryan, community, rob, big, retrofitted, oates, national, toronto maple leafs, voice, thinking, true, money, ramps

SPEAKERS

Steve Barclay, Rob Mineault, Lis Malone, Ryan Fleury

R Ryan Fleury 00:46
Hey and welcome to another episode of AT Banter.

S Steve Barclay 00:52
Banter, banter, banter, banter, banter,

R Rob Mineault 00:58
Hey, hey, my name is Rob Mineault. Oh. Joining me today. Mr. Ryan Fleury.

R Ryan Fleury 01:07
Hey.

R Rob Mineault 01:10
Mr. Steve Barclay.

S Steve Barclay 01:12
That's this guy right here with the two thumbs.



R Rob Mineault 01:16
And Miss Lis Malone

L Lis Malone 01:20
The girl with two thumbs down.

R Rob Mineault 01:23
Thumbs down? Why thumbs down today? Downing? Thumbs Downing?

L Lis Malone 01:28
I'm, well, I'm a little shocked that Tampa Bay swept the Panthers.

S Steve Barclay 01:36
Yeah, we're surprised at that one. Would have figured they had at least one in them.

L Lis Malone 01:41
Yeah, that was that was rough. So I have to Yeah. So I'm a little I'm definitely a little upset about that. But it's all right over.

R Rob Mineault 01:54
All right. Listen. Okay. I know last week, we started the show up and we talked sports. So I feel like we set a little precedent. So that's fine. Having a little sports corner. Let's go. Who? Who won the game? What's going on? Who's in the playoffs? Are we at the playoffs?

L Lis Malone 02:14
Yes. Yes. And you have there are two Canadian teams still in it that are fighting now they're duking it out.

S Steve Barclay 02:20
It's great battle of Alberta. Battle of Alberta carries on again tonight. Two games to one.

L Lis Malone 02:28

L LIS MAIONE 02:20
That would be the Oilers and the Flames.

S Steve Barclay 02:33
Yes. That is correct.

R Ryan Fleury 02:35
Go sports.

R Rob Mineault 02:37
Yeah, how is sports doing? I don't know why that cracks Ryan up. Makes him lose it.

R Ryan Fleury 02:49
I just see you already like this big, big foam finger and some sort of funky cap and just goes "Go Sports!". Just have this image.

S Steve Barclay 02:59
Well, there's been changes in management and Australian hockey. We know that much.

R Rob Mineault 03:03
Oh, yes, that's right. Yeah, no, I wonder what their season is going to be like?

S Steve Barclay 03:07
Who knows? Right?

R Rob Mineault 03:11
All right. Okay. Are we done with the sports thing? Are we done?

S Steve Barclay 03:15
Totally, totally done. We were sort of waiting for it.

R Rob Mineault 03:18

So just so the audience knows, because we've kind of we're tickling with a feather we might as well just go down. So Liz, who are you, who's your team? Who are you hoping is going to win and get into the playoffs?

L Lis Malone 03:32

You mean in the playoffs?

R Rob Mineault 03:35

Whatever.

L Lis Malone 03:36

Okay, so, so the Carolina Hurricanes are still in it. And they are. They're they're they're duking it out with the Rangers? I think they're gonna take them. I think they're up to games to one if I'm not mistaken. Tampa Bay is proceeding because they beat the Panthers. You got the Oilers and the flames and just as Steve said, there, you're playing tonight. And then the other two teams are St. Louis and Colorado.

R Rob Mineault 04:03

No Liz, who are you hoping wins?

L Lis Malone 04:11

Well, my team's been out when it didn't even make the Playoffs.

R Rob Mineault 04:13

So who's your substitute team? Who do you like, in all of those?

L Lis Malone 04:17

I probably I'm gonna have to stick with the with the Canes because that's my my new local. That's my local team now.

R Rob Mineault 04:25

So, catches. Okay. Yeah. Excellent. And what about you, Steve?

so, gotta. Okay. Yeah. Excellent. And what about you, Steve?

S Steve Barclay 04:30
For me, it's Calgary now.

R Rob Mineault 04:32
Oh, yeah. Yeah, cuz, yeah. Because between Calgary and Edmonton, I think I feel like everybody picks Calgary.

S Steve Barclay 04:42
Unless you live in Edmonton.

R Rob Mineault 04:45
But then you have a whole other set of problems.

S Steve Barclay 04:50
Way to insult the entire city of Edmonton.

R Rob Mineault 04:54
I'm just teasing Edmonton. All people in Edmonton email Rob. We love ya Edmonton. Yah silly bastards.

S Steve Barclay 05:13
Now you're commenting on their parenting too.

R Rob Mineault 05:21
Listen Is anyone else want to run the show? So you're gonna have to put up with my shenanigans.

S Steve Barclay 05:30
Somebody better stepped in before there are any more cities he craps on.

- R** Rob Mineault 05:40
I said Edmonton is a fine city has a very lovely Mall. And I'm sure a bunch of other stuff. A lot of Tim Hortons. I hear many Tim Hortons.
- R** Ryan Fleury 06:11
Moving on.
- R** Rob Mineault 06:14
Hey, Ryan. Me what? Yeah, yeah, what? What are we talking about today? What are we doing?
- R** Ryan Fleury 06:23
Today? My understanding is we're having a discussion all about accessibility and inclusivity.
- R** Rob Mineault 06:29
As, as many of you probably know, right now, when this episode drops, it is right in the midst of National Accessibility Week, which is May 29 to June 4. So to everybody here Happy, National Accessibility Week, we are excited.
- L** Lis Malone 06:50
There you go.
- R** Rob Mineault 06:51
Yeah, sorry, Lis this is a Canadian thing. Well, you guys know where National Accessibility Week started?
- S** Steve Barclay 07:03
No,
- R** Rob Mineault 07:04
No? Real you guys don't? Oh, well, listen, it was started by friend of the show, Mr. Rick Hansen, what way back in 1988, where he founded it as National Access Awareness Week. And it's a week to celebrate Canadians with disabilities and raise awareness of the critical need for

work to celebrate Canadians with disabilities and raise awareness of the critical need for accessibility and inclusion for all in our communities and workplaces. Now, I know, you know, we've we have talked about accessibility god knows how many times on this podcast. But you know, at the end of the day, I really feel like this is really the really the core of everything that we talk about on a on a weekly basis. Accessibility is really the the thing that needs to change in order to, to sort of move the whole disability rights movement forward. I can't really think I mean, I was thinking about this earlier, and I'll throw this question to you guys. But I mean, I can't really think of any other issue. That's, that's bigger than then accessibility within the disability community in the disability rights space. I mean, I think it's right up there with, say, you know, equity, where that is with, say, with, say, minority and minority advocacy movements.

S

Steve Barclay 08:32

Well, it's not as sexy as a lot of the other issues, it's not as outrageous to people as a lot of the other issues. So yeah, I think it doesn't get the kind of attention that other issues do get.

L

Lis Malone 08:44

I also think that the complexity level of trying to understand all of the facets, and all of the different aspects of disability, it's so, so vast that I don't think that most could really even sit and comprehend. I mean, even us who have disabilities, you know, are sometimes still, you know, grappling with understanding the landscape in our own segment of, of that of this particular group, as opposed to I mean, now understanding all of the, the, you know, other complexities of, you know, neuro diversities and, and all of, you know, physical limitations and mobility, you know, travel and locate, you know, aspects for it's just, it's just so it's so over, you know, overarching that how can how can any I mean, what other group is this? Diverse? Really when you think about it?

R

Rob Mineault 09:50

Yeah, well, and again, that's this is where it comes down to, like, you know, making things accessible for the the greatest amount of people That's about as good as you can get. Because you're absolutely right. I mean, right that you're there, even just the gradients among single disabilities can be really far reaching, let alone all the different types of, of disability, you know. But that's the really funny thing about it, you know, you think about other advocacy groups, and you think of other other social change that that's happening among other communities. And, you know, I'm never going to be a member of any of any of those given communities. But I could very well, tomorrow, be a member become a member of the disability community, right? Disability is very unique in the fact that, you know, we're all like me and Steve, right, we're TABS. You know, we're in this this one category for now. But your disability is not, is not something that that anybody is locked out of. And in for that matter, it's almost a guarantee that eventually, we're going to be members of that community. So you would think that as a society as human beings, you think that this would be among the top of the list in terms of things that we fight for? Because we're all going there.

R

Ryan Fleury 11:22

 Ryan Fleury 11:22

Well, it might be top of mind for people. But like Lis said, it's so it's so expansive. Where do you start? How do you begin? How do you choose? You know, how to make something or an experience accessible for most of the people? Well, how do you pick most of the people? Where how does this all start? And it's just so overwhelming. I don't think anybody knows.

 Rob Mineault 11:46

I don't know if I agree with that. I think people know, I think that I think that where you start is with the idea of inclusive design, universal design. There is so much technology out there that we could tomorrow, do sweeping changes and make a lot of things a lot more accessible than they are right now. Like, what if, what if tomorrow, the mandates just completely changed, and they just said, you know, what, audio description is going to be across the board, everything has to be out or described, we have the technology to make that happen. It would be hard, it would be a lot of work. But we could certainly do it.

 Lis Malone 12:31

The other thing to consider is that when you're thinking about equity, it's one thing when you say when you talk about social justice, those aspects of their crusade has a lot to do with acceptance and fair treatment and equal rights. Whereas the the broad disability group for us to have, quote unquote, equal access costs money. And that's usually the linchpin is that it, you know, to say, yes, you have to allow, let's say, for example, same sex marriage to take place, doesn't cost anybody money. But if I, if he's now saying you have to put curb cuts everywhere in this whole city, they're going to look at and say, how much? How much is that going to cost?

 Ryan Fleury 13:30

And I think like Rob said, you know, at some point, we have to start somewhere, he got to take that first step in order to make progress. But what's that first step? I don't know.

 Rob Mineault 13:42

Well, I think the first step is, is the idea of inclusive design. I mean, I think that that's been, you know, building, you start building the systems that are inclusive, everything else will just sort of fall into place.

 Lis Malone 13:58

You mean or universal design.

 Rob Mineault 14:03

Yes. You start the foundation, and then and then sort of work your way up. And yeah, a lot of systems would have to be rebuilt. And it's, it's nothing that's going to happen overnight.

systems would have to be rebuilt. And it's, it's nothing that's going to happen overnight, certainly. But I mean, I think that that's the shift that needs to happen in order to make some of these other things take hold.

S

Steve Barclay 14:21

And I think that's happening. I mean, we're seeing it happen more and more building codes, you know, they're, we're seeing it more in, you know, the work that the Rick Hansen Foundation is doing. You know, that I think one of the big issues though, is that, even if we, you know, if every new building that's built out there is built 100% accessible, there's still 1000s and 1000s of other buildings out there that weren't and have to be retrofitted. And that's a that's a huge pain in the butt. And a lot more work because, you know, you probably have to repurpose space to do it.

R

Rob Mineault 14:59

Yeah. No, that's very true. But at the very least I see what could be happening is, is them revamping, you know, say, for using the built environment as an example, just revamping with the specs, for everything that's going to go up new, and worry about the older buildings and the retrofit down the road when you can. But at least everything that's going up should have should be looked at through this lens of inclusive design.

R

Ryan Fleury 15:29

You know what, you know, what stuns me though, when when we talk about accessibility, it still stuns me that people are today coming up with websites that are inaccessible. Like, how, how are people still dropping the ball on that one?

R

Rob Mineault 15:44

It does make you shake your head, but at the same time, you know, when the the the enforcement isn't there, and you're relying on companies to sort of spend money to in order to do the right thing. Every company is just not going to do that. Yes, some of the bigger companies, some of the bigger corporations that have them, the development dollars, can certainly do that. And a lot of times they do it for you know, goodwill, and you know, it's it's part of their brand, but

R

Ryan Fleury 16:14

You're right, you know, enforcement, isn't there, you know, the web guidelines are not new, they've been there for for quite some time. And how many times do we see lawsuit after lawsuit after lawsuit? Places being sued? Because they're not accessible, their site's not accessible. You know, it's happening every day.



R

Rob Mineault 16:31

Yeah, yeah. And that's, that's sort of certainly the frustrating part of it. And that's why it's hard, like, like, events like National Accessibility Week, it's, it's an incredibly important week, I'm excited about it. But at the same time, it's really hard not to be a little bit cynical and a little bit critical of just where we are at in terms of things like legislation, in terms of even the the Accessible Canada Act, you know, change just doesn't seem to be happening fast enough. And especially when you combine it, compare it to a metric with like, some of the other like I said, social changes that are happening, I just really feel like the disability community needs its moment and it needs some, some movement. And maybe part of that is going to have to be a sort of a self advocacy thing. People have to be louder, I think and yell louder, and be more of an advocate for themselves in order for for this to truly change, because it doesn't seem like anybody else is going to do it for them.

R

Ryan Fleury 17:43

Well, I think I've said before, you know, we know change is happening, we know society is coming around, and seeing the importance of accessibility inclusivity, you know, built environments being accessible. But there, there isn't a, a source a resource, a map to see how far we've come in the last five years. We know it's happening every day, we know. Things are changing. We see it on, I see it on Twitter all the time. But you just don't know how fast are progressing. And I'm sure we'd be stunned to know how many places were made accessible, how many websites were retrofitted and made accessible? How many? Whatever restaurants put in accessible bathrooms, how many places installed beacons? You know, there's probably been a lot of improvement, we just don't see it all or know where to find it all.

R

Rob Mineault 18:40

Yeah, it's really interesting. You know, it's, it's, it's a really interesting juxtaposition. Because, you know, we, technologically we really are there for a lot of things is like a golden age for assistive technology for different types of solutions that are technology based to to really improve access, right across the board. I'm talking, you know, talking physical communication, you know, vision, everything. But yet, you know, again, there seems to be these these barriers and these hold ups to really, really implement them in a way that's that's going to be really meaningful and really sort of drive things forward. Yeah, I mean, yeah, I get it. I know and I want to be positive. You know, I think that you know, we you do you have to take the little victories where you can get them. I think that certainly in the past five years conversations are much more prevalent. There is there is a lot of positive change happening. I just get frustrated because I don't think it's it's fast enough. I mean, if you think of where any sort of - pick a minority group or social justice issue and and compare five years ago to today. And I think that, you know, you're gonna see some really, really large jarring changes in that which is great. Social change is great. But I don't feel that way within the disability justice. I don't know, maybe, and maybe I have a different view than you guys. I'm interested to hear what what your guys's take on that is?

R

Ryan Fleury 20:26

Well, I think you know, we, you know, the seven years we've been doing the show, we've spoken to people who are, you know, huge advocates of the disability movement, accessibility,

spoken to people who are, you know, huge advocates of the disability movement, accessibility and inclusivity. They're doing great work day after day after day after day after day. But again, I think the disability community is a very quiet community overall. We don't want to raise a commotion raise a fuss, because maybe our funding will get cut. And maybe that, you know, there's consequences for your actions. And we're pretty thankful and grateful for what we have. Maybe that's part of it. I don't know, maybe we need a disability parade. You know, like disability community is a very quiet community overall.

R

Rob Mineault 21:08

Well, that's interesting. It's really interesting that you say that. And maybe that that is the case, maybe? I don't know, whatever you like, Lis doesn't seem to me as quiet.

L

Lis Malone 21:18

I don't think the community is so much quiet. I think it's just that we are so fragmented, that there isn't really one singular voice within our within our community, because our needs are so vast. And you know, and I still go back to the my point earlier is that, our social justice, yes. Okay. So we have, so the disability community does have social justice where, you know, with the, you know, at least here in the US, we have the ADA, I'm not saying it's perfect, it's better than nothing, where we have mechanisms and levers that we can pull that if we are discriminated from getting housing, getting work getting, you know, things that we have equal rights to just like any other group, but our needs are greater than social justice, we have our we have physical barriers, we have technological barriers. And those needs cost money to get those rectified. And some of that money means coming from the private sector for businesses to take, dig into their pockets, and do the right thing and also be compliant with federal laws. And or the government needs to put more money, local and federal, to make things more accessible. We talked about this on the show, when we were talking about different types of barriers and solutions, that when it becomes mass market solution, then all of a sudden people pay a lot more attention to it. So I mean, when we when we talk about, like, you know, street barriers and ramps and the need for, you know, more accessible sidewalks and better, you know, you know, intersection crossings. Of course, like, you know, we're coming from a very selfish place where we want to say, Yeah, well, I mean, this is an accept accessible for different, different people have varying degrees of, you know, mobility. Overall, unless we start to say, Hey, how is the how's a woman with an infant supposed to push her stroller down the street? How's the delivery man who's now blocking his blocking the traffic with their truck, because they have to come around to find the nearest, you know, way that they can get up? You know, because there are no cuts anywhere in the sidewalk. You know, I mean, when you when you put things where it becomes inconvenient to the general public and makes it easier for them. That's when I think civil civic leaders start to pay attention, which is not helpful, right. It's sad in that respect, but sometimes you have to look for allies in strange places.

R

Rob Mineault 24:06

You're absolutely right.



... 21:07

L Lis Malone 24:07

And I think the other point that we should talk about is that I think sometimes why accessibility issues are sometimes ignored, is that people don't want to think about their own potential limitations, and don't want to accept that they are members of the TAB community, and that losing aspects of your physical mobility is actually a part of the aging process. You know, no one wants to accept that. I mean, you know, you have surgery, you have unexpected knee surgery now guess you're on crutches, guess what, you're now in our group. And it's things like that, that I think people don't want to face head on. And I mean, Gosh, I mean, you could be Johnny Depp and lose a finger or if your family her throws a vodka bottle at you, you know. So I, it just shows you that there's this thinking that it's us in them. They're like, Oh, gosh, oh, with these disabled people, but they don't see it as this is something that is helping the community at large because this can happen to any one of us at any given time.

R Rob Mineault 25:26

Yeah, that is such a good point. And, and, you know, I think there and I really do believe that there is something to that, I think that there's there is a discomfort level for a lot of people, when they when they think about disability, in that, when they look at somebody, they go, Oh, that could be me, or that might be me or, and I think that that does make people uncomfortable. And maybe that is part of part of why these are such hard conversation to have, or people just kind of close their eyes, and they don't, they don't necessarily want to think about it. Because, you know, the other thing is that, you know, disability transcends every single demographic there is. It doesn't matter, doesn't matter what country you're in, it doesn't matter what your background is. You could enter into that community at any point at any time. And maybe that's just scares the shit out of people.

S Steve Barclay 26:25

So you think it's just denial?

R Rob Mineault 26:27

I think maybe part of it. I mean, we even see that within the disability community, right? How many people have we talked to that that had low vision and their their eyesight was deteriorating. And it would make perfect sense for them to just accept the fact that at some point, their vision is going to be so bad that they're going to have to rely on Braille. But do they learn braille while they have low vision? A lot of times they don't, because they they're just starting, not ready to face that. And that feels like a little bit of a admitting defeat almost. So maybe it's it that's just part of human nature is that we just want to hang on to what we've got, even if we know that we're going to lose it at some point, just me just it's just, we just can't face it until we're ready.

S Steve Barclay 27:13

So sort of like hair.

R

Rob Mineault 27:16

I wish I got to hold on to my hair. I kind of had on my list to talk a little bit about the accessible Canada Act. But I don't really want to talk about the Accessible Canada Act and not talk a little bit about the ADA.

L

Lis Malone 27:34

I mean, the ADA is in place. I mean, you know...

R

Rob Mineault 27:38

Do they ever change it? like Did they ever amend it?

L

Lis Malone 27:41

There are there's always little I mean amendments, or I guess you could call it landmark cases that will challenge aspects of it. Sort of like when you know, when it was when it was when it was written? I mean, we're talking about 1990 that there were aspects of it that, you know, no one knew what what what cell phones would be doing today, and what websites would be what they would mean to you know, business functions and apps and all kinds of, you know, whatnot. So it's sort of like a living, breathing evolving, kind of having to go with the times. And then there's been certain things like we've had the CVA under, under Obama, Barack Obama, the CVA I believe it stands for the Cable and Video Accessibility Act that then require broadcasters to have a certain amount of described video programming throughout their, throughout the day, things like that. So there's always like, I mean, you look at those as like, offshoots of the ADA, in essence.

R

Rob Mineault 29:01

Right. Well, and then I imagine you also have statewide legislation as well.

L

Lis Malone 29:07

Well, the I mean, the eight since the ADEA is federal, then I guess, local governments can, you know, adopts certain aspects of it. So I mean, most most jurisdictions will follow the ADA guidelines. They won't necessarily say, screw the ADA, we're just going to do what we want to do in this. But there might be some minor tweaks in terms of, I think, like what structure structural barriers where as, like new constructions will need to, you know, be in line with, with guidelines, but then certain buildings that might have been built before a certain amount of you know, so long were considered historic, historic landmarks and things like that. Wouldn't be required to have the same to do the same modifications, for example. So there are certain exempt.

R Rob Mineault 30:11
No, that's the Hockey night in Canada theme. It takes me, every time we do a podcast, takes me two days for that song to get out of my head. Right back in there every Monday.

L Lis Malone 30:28
Okay, I have a Canada question because you brought up hockey. Why is it that at the Toronto Maple Leafs arena, when they score a goal they play that stupid Hall & Oates song. Like it is the worst victory song like hey, we scored a goal Hall & Oates song. You make my dreams come true.

R Rob Mineault 30:52
Oh, do they really? That's awful.

L Lis Malone 30:58
Hey, Toronto, that's embarrassing.

R Rob Mineault 31:01
But that's like a hockey thing. Right? Like every team has their like song that they play whenever they get a goal, right?

L Lis Malone 31:07
Yeah, well, let's see. The Carolina Hurricanes. They play Rock You Like a Hurricane.

R Rob Mineault 31:16
I mean, I didn't even know that, but I guessed it. Yeah.

L Lis Malone 31:20
But come on. Hall & Oates. You make my dreams come true. Woohoo. We scored a goal.

R Rob Mineault 31:26
No, I'm sorry. That's just lame. That is pretty lame.

L Lis Malone 31:28

It's Sorry. Yeah. Thought maybe there was something that I didn't know the about why that song is played.

R Rob Mineault 31:36

no, I think it's like whoever whoever runs the Arena, it's their favorite song. Okay. Anyways, we're, we're in the weeds.

L Lis Malone 31:44

Sorry. You're going to talk about the the ACA.

R Rob Mineault 31:48

Yeah, well, it's so the ACA is is actually a really interesting piece of legislation. Because I don't think I don't know, maybe this is how the ADA started. But, you know, really, the Accessible Canada Act really only covers federal buildings. If I'm if I'm not mistaken as our rights team. Do, you know, you know, I believe at the time being, yeah, yes. So I mean, really, all of this, and I believe that goal they do, they have set a goal now. Which is I believe, 2040 is when they're hoping to make all federal buildings, or every building, that's under sort of the auspice of the federal government. accessible. That's 18 years from now. And that's just to make federal buildings accessible. So we're kind of in the long game here. I mean, anyways, the long the short of it is, you know, we're still a long ways away, we're really at the beginning of this legislation. So I don't think we can put too much weight on it, because it is so new. You know, the ADA, at least has been is a little bit more far reaching, and has been around a lot longer. But of course, you know, we've we've also had, I feel like provincial regulations, you know, there's certainly been disability and accessibility guidelines around in in different sectors. It's just never been under this one really large hospice before.

R Ryan Fleury 33:20

Well, keep in mind, though, that it was only I think, last year, was it not that BC came up with a BC Accessibility Act? So, you know, what does that even look like? And is each province going to have their own act? Why can't we all just fall under the ACA? Like, there's a lot of things that are gonna have to be worked out before any of this has any movement.

S Steve Barclay 33:20

Let's see here. The BC One was assented to June of 2021. So it's been around a year.

R Rob Mineault 33:53

Rob Mineault 33:33

Yeah, that's right. And I think it covers probably covers different things than the the federal. And I mean, that's, I feel like that's pretty normal. I mean, that's kind of how federal and local acts sort of work. Right? There are things that fall under the federal and then there's things that fall under the provincial right,

R

Ryan Fleury 34:14

I guess what I mean by that statement is why do we need to recreate the wheel? Why can we not look at stuff like the US has done with the ADA, or other countries as a blueprint instead of starting from scratch? Like the our ACA has been around for four years, and we just appointed our first two people this year.

S

Steve Barclay 34:35

It's because our government stupid, Ryan?

R

Rob Mineault 34:39

Yeah. I didn't want to say it.

S

Steve Barclay 34:44

You want it blunt?

R

Ryan Fleury 34:45

Absolutely. Let's have this. Let's have that discussion, you know?

S

Steve Barclay 34:51

Because right now what they're about is they're about developing standards. So the I mean, there's there's virtually nothing in place with any kind of teeth that is required under the accessibility acts that we have currently.

R

Ryan Fleury 35:06

Right. So back to the enforcement argument again.

S

Steve Barclay 35:09

Right. Yeah.

R Ryan Fleury 35:12
Okay. Next Generation, good luck. We're not getting it during ours.

S Steve Barclay 35:21
Well, you know, I do I do note that one of the people on that provincial accessibility committee is Rob Sleath. So there'd be a good guy to ask on the BC Act.

R Rob Mineault 35:42
Yeah. Well, we know how effective committees can be.

R Ryan Fleury 35:51
We need to do a study.

R Rob Mineault 35:58
Maybe I'm being unfair. But that's the stuff that kind of aggravates me because it's just like, oh, well, we'll make a committee or appoint this person with this title. And, man, that was rough. Okay, everyone, let's have a break. You only mean like it, we'll have a break for like four years. It's frustrating, because it's just like, I like I get it. It's new. But in another way, it's kind of not like these are none of none of this is new. None of them are new problems. When we have everything we need to solve the problems. It's just a matter of the will. And like Lis said, the money to make the changes, we could totally do it tomorrow. If we wanted to. But part of the problem is, it's just doesn't seem to be a high enough priority is the long and the short of it, I think.

R Ryan Fleury 36:57
Well, and maybe there's still consultations going on with the Neil Squires and the Rick Hanson's and everybody else to figure out what everybody wants and what everybody needs. And what's what's at the top of the priority list.

R Rob Mineault 37:08
Yeah, maybe. Maybe they're waiting for the they're in meetings, and they ordered their pizza, and they're waiting for that order, like I don't know. Now you've made me negative, Ryan. My goal was to come into this podcast trying to be positive.

R Ryan Fleury 37:28
But these are discussions that I'm sure we're not the only ones that are frustrated about us or we're talking about why the disability community is not doing shit about accessibility and inclusivity. Well, we need an uprising. Let's let's storm the legislature. Let's, let's crawl the steps. Let's let's make our voices heard.

S Steve Barclay 37:46
Viva la revolutione.

R Ryan Fleury 37:51
Let's have a parade. You don't let me gotta do something, right? Because things aren't happening as quickly as most of us want them to.

R Rob Mineault 38:00
Listen, as much as I don't want to be subpoenaed..

R Ryan Fleury 38:05
You're the one who wants riots for a new TV

R Rob Mineault 38:07
for the the May 25 uprising at a parliament that Ryan has called for.

R Ryan Fleury 38:14
Just go on Facebook, everybody.

S Steve Barclay 38:18
Like the trucker convoy, right>

R Rob Mineault 38:22
But he's not wrong. Well, that's a really okay. Well, there you go. There's a there's a really good example like, you know, the stupid trucker convoy. Like, I'm sorry for anybody in our audience who it was all behind the trucker convoy, but it was stupid. And you're an idiot. However, we

love you and keep listening, like subscribe. But people took notice. But you're right there. People took notice it got attention. And maybe that is what we are used to in our sort of social media outrage bubbles that we get into is that, you know, in order for something to make an impression, it's kind of has to be sensational.

R Ryan Fleury 39:10
Absolutely. Agreed.

R Rob Mineault 39:14
And that's a problem. Like that's, you know, I certainly, I certainly think disability rights is a bigger issue than whether or not, you know, BJ and the Bear had to get a vaccine. Good 1979 TV reference for everybody. Just Google it. Anyone who was born after like, I don't know, whatever. Just Google BJ and the Bear.

S Steve Barclay 39:49
Yeah. Anybody born after Rob.

R Rob Mineault 39:56
Lis is being really quiet. She doesn't know what the hell we're talking about.

L Lis Malone 39:59
Oh, hey, that's the monkey pox spread...

R Rob Mineault 40:02
Look at that she does. Okay excellent. Anyways, where was I? Now I derailed this dammit.

R Ryan Fleury 40:11
Social media. We need an uprising. Maybe somebody will stand up and do I'm not going to do it but maybe maybe somebody will who is a much bigger advocate a much louder advocate who has the connections to get something happening to get our voices heard. You know like like Lis said and I've said before our community is such a fragmented community how do you get everybody together to whatever storm Parliament, storm this Mayor's office. Somebody's got to take that first step or nothing's gonna happen





Lis Malone 40:52

People are in Parliament are saying, thank God we didn't put ramps on those damn stairs. It was a strategic move.



Ryan Fleury 41:02

That's right.



Rob Mineault 41:05

Man if it was 2040, they'd be in big trouble. No, but that's a good point. I do really think that there there probably is a lot to that. The fact that that the gradient of disability is so wide that it is hard to sort of speak with one voice. Man like it is Rick Hansen started this in 1988 I know and all for warm and fuzzies and now Ryan's talking about storming the legislature.



Ryan Fleury 41:51

Right? Flashmob going up on Facebook! Everybody's storm your local legislatures.



Rob Mineault 41:56

That's not what a flashmob is...



Ryan Fleury 42:01

Everybody's gonna gather and we're gonna make our voices heard.



Rob Mineault 42:05

Isn't a Flashmob where they dance?



Steve Barclay 42:08

Yeah, yeah,



Rob Mineault 42:09

Yeah, okay, well so yeah, don't organize a flash mob to storm Parliament you're gonna have a really little bit of a weird dance.

R Ryan Fleury 42:17
No, see, that's maybe that's how you get them sidetracked it's like, what are there all these blind people doing and singing and dancing. Catch them off guard.

R Rob Mineault 42:29
Your flash mob to that Hall & Oates song?

L Lis Malone 42:33
You make my dreams come true.

R Rob Mineault 42:35
Right. You can make our dreams come true. Wow. All right. Well, I think we've done enough damage Happy National Accessibility Week everyone.

R Ryan Fleury 42:49
That's just a Canada. There's the rest of the global audience listening

R Rob Mineault 42:55
We'll follow up National Accessibility Week with National Storm Legislature Day, as soon as you get those ramps in. But no seriously, Happy National Accessibility Week everyone. Now I sound real bummed out about it. Well, listen, we want to thank all our listeners. A very happy National accessibility week at least up here in Canada. Lis for the week you can be an honorary Canadian and you can celebrate too.

L Lis Malone 43:27
I thought I already was an honorary Canadian.

R Rob Mineault 43:32
No, not yet. I mean, give it time.

L Lis Malone 43:34
Well screw you we're taking our Hall & Oates song back. They're from Philadelphia not from freaking Toronto by the way morons.

R Rob Mineault 43:46
See? I'm telling you man we just got whenever we whenever we don't have a guest we just we get mean.

R Ryan Fleury 43:54
It's the seltzer.

L Lis Malone 44:08
What's your excuse Ryan?

R Ryan Fleury 44:09
That's just me. I'm a grumpy old man.

R Rob Mineault 44:11
Yeah, that's true.

R Ryan Fleury 44:13
Absolutely. Zero tolerance for shit anymore.

R Rob Mineault 44:18
Truth is being hurled today.

R Ryan Fleury 44:24
You can't handle the truth.

R Rob Mineault 44:30
all right, all right. That's enough. Okay. Okay, no, just let me wish everybody Happy National Accessibility Week so we can get outta here.



- S** Steve Barclay 44:37
You did that already.
- R** Rob Mineault 44:39
Okay, fine. Whatever. Okay. So
- L** Lis Malone 44:49
Let me throw out something a little warm and fuzzy.
- R** Rob Mineault 44:52
Just a minute okay, just let me finish.
- L** Lis Malone 45:07
There will be no warm and fuzzies in this podcast episode.
- R** Rob Mineault 45:19
Everybody national Happy National Accessibility Week, we will post the links in the show notes to all the events that are going on. Okay, now give me your warm and fuzzy.
- L** Lis Malone 45:27
I was just going to extend a thank you to all of the organizations and business owners and and parts of Canada and the US who are voluntarily being accessible to everybody without the ACA.
- R** Rob Mineault 45:46
Or the ADA.
- L** Lis Malone 45:47
Well, we got the ADA, so there they have to be nice, or I'm gonna sue your ass.
- R** Rob Mineault 45:55
She'll do it too. Yeah, well, I agree. Okay, that's it. We're done talking about accessibility. That's

it. That's the show. Hey, Ryan.

R Ryan Fleury 46:16
Rob.

R Rob Mineault 46:18
Hi.

R Ryan Fleury 46:19
Hi. So that's about do it for us this week.

R Rob Mineault 46:22
No, it's not. Hey, man, it's so hard to break after seven years. Bring a new person on the show and then make me go to her. Hey, Lis.

L Lis Malone 46:32
Hi. Yeah, yes, Rob. Hi.

R Rob Mineault 46:35
Where can people find us?

L Lis Malone 46:38
They can find me at the bar, but they can find us www.atbanter.com

R Rob Mineault 46:45
They can also drop us an email if they so desire at cowbell@atbanter.com.

S Steve Barclay 46:54
And when they get completely inebriated on their hard seltzer, and they want to throw their voice out there on social media and express their outrage, they can do that both on Twitter and Facebook. And maybe a little on Instagram.

- R** Rob Mineault 47:09
Just a little just a tip. Yeah. I'm just thinking if there's another Hall & Oates song that would be more applicable. They must have have a better song than thatfor a goal. I can't think of any.
- L** Lis Malone 47:29
If anyone knows the the reason why they used that song, please email us because I really need to know.
- R** Rob Mineault 47:36
Any Montreal Canadian fans
- R** Ryan Fleury 47:40
No, Toronto Maple Leaf fans.
- R** Rob Mineault 47:44
Whatever.
- S** Steve Barclay 47:46
Let's see. Okay, it's the Toronto Maple Leafs. It's the Toronto Maple Leafs. So let's see. How about You've Lost That Loving Feeling?
- R** Rob Mineault 47:55
Oh, perfect. I love it.
- S** Steve Barclay 47:57
Yeah.
- R** Rob Mineault 47:57
there you go. That's perfect.



Steve Barclay 48:01

Or, they score a goal : Say It Ain't So.



Rob Mineault 48:06

All right, that is going to about do it for us this week. Big thanks to everybody for listening in and Happy National Accessibility Week. See everybody next week.