



Communication Disabilities Access Canada

Communication Assistance

A Communication Assistant assists a person who has a communication disability when communicating with other people.

A communication assistant:

- is directed by the person with a communication disability
- is authorized and trusted by the person they assist
- knows how the person communicates
- respects the autonomy of the person they are assisting

A communication assistant is not a coach, an advocate, an advisor or a mediator. A communication assistant does not speak for or make decisions for a person with a communication disability.

Examples of communication assistance include:

- clarifying unclear speech
- reading letters, words, or pictures that are selected from a communication display
- clarifying or expanding a message from a display or communication device
- making sure that the person's message is understood
- rephrasing language that another person uses so that the person understands

Speech-Language Pathology services are required if a person needs:

- assessment, therapy or communication services
- communication displays and devices
- support communicating in critical situations such as police, legal or justice settings or within consent and capacity situations in healthcare.