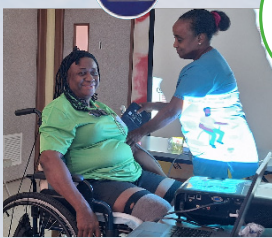


HEALTH



THE CHALLENGE: For many years, health care facilities were designed with little consideration for persons with disabilities. Physical barriers, inaccessible examination areas, and limited awareness often prevented equitable access to health care.

BCD ADVOCACY IN ACTION - The BCD consistently advocated for accessible and affordable health care, disability awareness training, and greater recognition of the right to equitable health care. More recently, the council has expanded its focus to include mental wellness, hidden disabilities, and health equity.

MILESTONES

- Advocated for improved accessibility in health care facilities.
- Promoted disability awareness among health care providers.
- Advanced national conversations on mental wellness and hidden disabilities.
- Continued advocacy under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2025).

THE DIFFERENCE TODAY - Accessibility is increasingly recognised as an essential component of quality health care, with growing awareness that health care services must be inclusive and affordable for all Barbadians as mandated in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2025).

EDUCATION



THE CHALLENGE: Many children with disabilities faced barriers to entering mainstream schools, with limited physical access, inadequate support services, and low public awareness of inclusive education.

BCD ADVOCACY IN ACTION - The BCD championed equal educational opportunities through disability awareness programmes, teacher sensitisation training, and the development of the My Inclusive School initiative, encouraging the Ministry of Education and schools to embrace inclusive learning environments and early assessments.

MILESTONES

- Launch of "My Inclusive School" Programme.
- Disability Awareness Day annual activities in schools.
- Teacher and student sensitisation initiatives.
- Partnerships supporting inclusive learning environments, e.g., establishing a Sensory Room at the Olga Miller School.

THE DIFFERENCE TODAY: Inclusive education has become a national priority since the legislation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2025), with schools increasingly embracing early intervention and assessments, accessibility, disability awareness, and inclusive teaching practices.

HOUSING



THE CHALLENGE: Most homes were not designed to accommodate changing mobility needs, leaving many persons unable to live independently within their own communities.

BCD ADVOCACY IN ACTION - The BCD promoted accessible home modifications, Universal Design principles, and community-based solutions that enable persons with disabilities to remain safely in their homes.

MILESTONES

- Home accessibility assessments.
- Community modification projects.
- Promotion of Universal Design in residential settings.
- Encourage the Government to provide 10% of its housing projects for accessibility.

THE DIFFERENCE TODAY - Accessible housing is increasingly recognised as an important part of independent living and community inclusion, guided by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2025).

TOURISM



THE CHALLENGE: Accessibility was rarely considered within the tourism sector, limiting Barbados' ability to welcome travellers with disabilities and reducing opportunities for inclusive tourism.

BCD ADVOCACY IN ACTION - The Fully Accessible Barbados (FAB) Programme positioned accessibility as both a human rights issue and an economic opportunity, encouraging improvements across accommodations, attractions, and motor services.

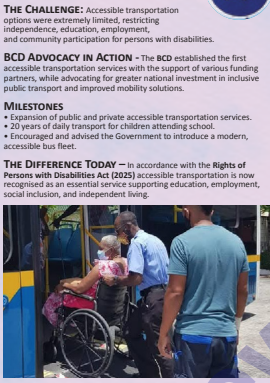
At its launch in 2005, the late Prime Minister Hon. David Thompson remarked in his speech, "Tonight's ceremony is one of those watershed occasions when we can together remove those remaining obstacles in the way of making Barbados better." He spoke of how the "FAB movement systematically set out to shock the average person into realising how the traditional perception of how we perceive persons with disabilities lead us to think that they are somehow sub-human".

MILESTONES

- Development of the Fully Accessible Barbados Programme, which, though started with the tourism sector, has turned the spotlight on all existing services offered in Barbados. A promise Prime Minister Thompson made at its launch. This we did.
- International presentations in Montreal, Brussels, and Torino.
- Presentations at the Ministerial High-level meeting in Haiti and at CTO in the Bahamas.
- National Accessibility assessments and training.
- Collaboration with tourism stakeholders regionally and internationally.

THE DIFFERENCE TODAY - Barbados is recognised internationally for its leadership in accessible tourism and Universal Design. Fully Accessible Barbados continues to be the catalyst for inclusion.

TRANSPORTATION



THE CHALLENGE: Accessible transportation options were extremely limited, restricting independence, education, employment, and community participation for persons with disabilities.

BCD ADVOCACY IN ACTION - The BCD established the first accessible transportation services with the support of various funding partners, while advocating for greater national investment in inclusive public transport and improved mobility solutions.

MILESTONES

- Expansion of public and private accessible transportation services.
- 20 years of daily transport for children attending school.
- Encouraged and advised the Government to introduce a modern, accessible bus fleet.

THE DIFFERENCE TODAY - In accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2025) accessible transportation is now recognised as an essential service supporting education, employment, social inclusion, and independent living.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT



THE CHALLENGE: Public buildings, sidewalks, parking areas, and community facilities were and still are largely inaccessible, preventing equal participation in everyday life.

BCD ADVOCACY IN ACTION - For decades, the BCD has advocated for barrier-free design, accessibility standards and legislative reform. Through the Fully Accessible Barbados Programme and the Access for All initiative, the council has helped establish practical solutions for improving public infrastructure.

MILESTONES

- Disability Parking Permit Programme.
- Wheelchair and Mobility Clinics provide thousands with mobility devices.
- Fully Accessible Barbados Accreditation Programme assessed hundreds of facilities throughout Barbados.
- Government accessibility assessments are being implemented.
- Universal Design training provided to strengthen local assessors.
- Accessibility recommendations supporting national legislation.

THE DIFFERENCE TODAY - Accessibility is now an integral part of national planning discussions, supported by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2025) and growing implementation across the Public and Private Sectors.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY BARBADOS COUNCIL 1976-2026

From advocacy to ACTION

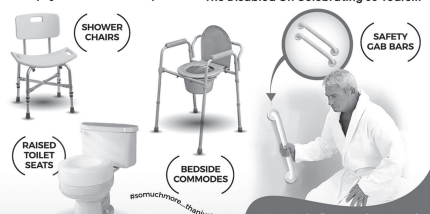
BCD helps transform Barbados

50th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the Barbados Council for the Disabled as they celebrate 50 years of advocating for the rights, inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in Barbados.

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