Développement Humain, Handicap et Changement Social
Human Development, Disability, and Social Change

Editorial

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Editorial

Social participation of seniors with disabilities is a major challenge in Quebec. With an aging population and an increase in the number of seniors developing or aging with disabilities or chronic illnesses, a series of challenges will arise. Fulfilling the needs of these seniors while respecting their choices, transforming our communities to make them more welcoming to them and privileging practices and innovations that facilitate their social participation are just a few examples of these challenges. Decision-makers, service providers, healthcare professionals and community organizations will be more than ever solicited to provide inclusive and supportive services and living environments that will enable the seniors living with disabilities to develop lifestyle habits in accordance with their values. As initiatives to support and defend the rights of these new seniors multiply, it is important that the actors involved share a common vision of the issues and solutions to be implemented.

This issue of the Journal of Human Development, Disability and Social Change aims to contribute to debates on the following issues: 1) What are the social policies and services that value the diversity of the aging processes and recognize the social and health inequalities?, 2) What are the issues associated with the development of welcoming communities that allow the development of accessible living environments for seniors with disabilities?, 3) What forms of social participation are sought by seniors with disabilities? and 4) What is the importance of identity constructions and social representations of age and disability in choosing life projects for seniors?

The first section of this issue includes the contributions of Émilie Raymond et al. and Mélanie Levasseur et al., who are interested in social policies in the field of aging and tools for assessing the needs of seniors with disabilities. The second contains articles by Danielle de Moissac et al., Stéphane Grenier and Stéphanie Diezel, as well as Jacqueline Trincaz et al.

These authors first concentrated on documenting access to health services in the province of Manitoba (Canada) by the Francophone minority seniors living with disabilities, as well as the different living arrangements available to them. They also examined the importance of providing spaces for people living in cognitively impaired senior care homes. The last section of this issue includes the texts of Jean Gagné et al. and Danielle Maltais, who explored innovative issues related to homelessness among seniors in Canada and the special needs of seniors with disabilities following the occurrence of natural disasters.

Good reading!

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