
CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	v
Preface	vii
Part One: The Voices of the Women	1
Girls with Disabilities	6
Sex Education and Abuse	12
Disability Caused by Abuse	20
Exacerbation	22
Abuse by Physicians And Other Caregivers	23
Abuse in Relationships	26
Abuse by Strangers	29
Reporting/Not Reporting	31
Support During the Legal Process	33
Working with Disabled Women Who Have Been Abused	35
Part Two: Assessing Our Options	41
Methodology	43
Transition Houses/Women's Shelters: Results	44
Return Rate	44
General Information	45
Years Open	46
Staff/Volunteers	46
Funding	48
Becoming Accesible	48
Sheltering Women with Disabilities	50
Mobility Disabilities	51
Visual Disabilities	52
Psychiatric Disabilities	53
Hearing Disabilities	56
Learning Disabilities	57
Developmental Disabilities	58
Hidden Disabilities	58
Problems of Sheltering Women with Disabilities	60
Disabled from Abuse	63
Attitudes	64
Comments of Workers	67
Potential for Wheelchair Accessibility	67
Rape Crisis Centres: Results	71
Conclusions	75
Part Three: Understanding Our Differences	79
Accessibility	82

Entrances	
Doors	82
Doorbells	84
Flat/Level Entrance	85
Ramps	85
Stairs	89
Inside the House	
Bathroom	91
Bedroom	101
Other Rooms	102
Kitchen	103
Playroom/Playground	104
Laundry	105
Elevators, Porch Lifts, and Chair Lifts	106
Phone	106
Fire Alarms and Evacuation Procedures	108
Resource Materials	109
Sign Language Interpretation	110
Special Problems and Common Courtesies	112
Women in Wheelchairs	113
Women with Visual Impairments	115
Women Who are Hearing Impaired	119
Women with Verbal Communication Disabilities	125
Women with Hidden Disabilities	127
Allergies	128
Seizures	129
Migraines	131
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	133
Women with Psychiatric Disabilities	134
Women with Developmental Disabilities	139
Women with Learning Disabilities	141
Women with Brain Injuries	142
Dogs	143
Conclusion and Recommendations	
Conclusion	147
Recommendations	148
Appendix A: Questionnaire/Transition Houses	151
Appendix B: Questionnaire/Rape Crisis Centres	164
Appendix C: Houses, by Province, that Sheltered Women and Children with Disabilities	174
Appendix D: Participating Transition Houses/Shelters	175
Appendix E: Participating Rape Crisis Centres	181
Bibliography	183
Order Form	187
