



SOMMET MONDIAL MONTRÉAL 19-22 OCTOBRE 2014  
WORLD SUMMIT MONTRÉAL OCTOBER 19-22, 2014

## PRESS RELEASE

### Open Doors Organization will reveal the findings on international travel of its 2014 national survey of American travelers with disabilities at the **World Summit Destinations for All**

Montreal, July 21th, 2014. Open Doors Organization (ODO) is conducting its third nationwide survey of American adult travelers with disabilities. The findings on international travel will be revealed at the World Summit Destinations for All to be held in Montreal, October 19-22 2014. The aim of this study is to provide statistically reliable information on the large, but still understudied disability travel market and to explore the changes that have taken place since the first pioneering studies by ODO in 2002 and 2005.

As in 2002 and 2005 studies, the 2014 survey will measure general travel behaviors including how often American adults with disabilities travel, how much money they spend, and which sources of information and technology they rely on. It will also gauge their experiences with airlines, airports, cruise lines, ground transportation and tours, destinations, hotels, and restaurants and determine what obstacles they still encounter. The 2014 study will again explore where people are traveling within the US and internationally. In addition to estimating the current and potential impact of the disability community on the US travel industry, it will reveal differences over time through comparisons with the earlier ODO studies.

*“The past decade has been especially dynamic for the disability community, with setbacks due to the economic crisis on one hand and improvements in accessibility and awareness on the other, not just in the U.S. but worldwide. At Open Doors Organization we look forward to seeing how these changes have affected travel patterns of American adults with disabilities and how large the market has now become”* said Laurel Van Horn, Director of Programs at ODO.

ODO, a non-profit organization based in Chicago, Illinois was founded in 2000 for the purpose of creating a society in which all persons with disabilities have the same consumer opportunities as everyone else. We aspire to teach businesses how to succeed in the disability market, while simultaneously empowering the disability community.

The **World Summit Destinations for All** aims to review the achievements that have been made in the world’s leading accessible destinations, to share and discuss best practices and methods and to chart a course for the development of **One World for Everyone**.

Supported especially by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT), this event occurs at a turning point in



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the development of tourism for all, after the publication of the “*UNWTO Recommendations on Accessible Tourism*” and the ICAO “*Manual on Access to Air Transport by Persons with Disabilities*”.

The other confirmed speakers are:

- Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA);
- Ms. Marina Diotallevi, Programme Manager Ethics & Social Dimensions of Tourism at the UNWTO;
- Mr. Ivor Ambrose, Manager, European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT);
- Mr. Jay Cardinali, Worldwide Accessibility Manager for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts;
- Ms. Ann Frye, an international specialist in the mobility needs of older people and people with disabilities;
- Mr. Scott Rains, Independent Travel and Disability Consultant;
- Mr. Martin Heng, Accessible Travel Manager, Lonely Planet;
- Mr. Magnus Berglund from Scandic Hotels;
- Mr. Marcus Weisen, International expert, European Centre for Cultural Accessibility.

The World Summit Destinations for all 2014 is organized by Kéroul, a key consultant for Tourisme Québec regarding accessibility, Kéroul is a non-profit organization which, through information and lobbying, promotes and develops accessible tourism and culture and by JPdL, a leading team of conference and event professionals for over 30 years.

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For more information about the **World Summit Destinations for All** and its supporting organizations, visit: [www.destinationspourtous2014.com](http://www.destinationspourtous2014.com)

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