

## **Access for All – Alberta Declaration on Responsible Tourism in Destinations**

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### *(Situation/purpose of study)*

In June 2011, the International Centre for Responsible Tourism Canada hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Responsible Tourism in Destinations (RTD5) in Edmonton, Alberta. The conference addressed 5 key themes relevant to tourism issues in Canada – and around the world. The themes explored included Access for All, Polar Tourism, Indigenous Tourism, Local Economic Development and Governance. While accessibility is one of the principles identified in the 2002 Cape Town Declaration on Responsible Tourism in Destinations, the RTD5 was the first time accessibility was discussed as a theme at an RTD conference.

### *(Approach and/or methodology)*

The Access for All panel specifically, addressed issues around global standards for accessibility, roles and responsibilities within destinations and showcased best practices. Final discussions were held in breakout groups that included speakers and delegates. Recommendations were forwarded for inclusion in the conference declaration.

### *(Results/conclusions)*

The Alberta Declaration on Responsible Tourism in Destinations was published and serves as a guiding document for destinations. The topic of accessibility and tourism has continued at the World Travel Market World Responsible Tourism Day (London, UK) and at subsequent RTD conferences – including most recently at the RTD7 in Barcelona, Spain.