

The Overlooked Invisibly Disabled

There is a portion of the community and TRU students and employees that are in an interesting and overlooked category, those that have disabilities that don't reach a level that is covered by a disability service, but that still impairs them in some ways.

For me, this is in the form of a chronic pain disorder that still causes me extreme pain, but not enough that my day to day life is affected enough that I need care or cannot accomplish most of the things that I need to do to care for myself in a day. That is not to say that I do not find normal tasks sometimes extremely difficult to do. One of these barriers for me now working at TRU has been getting around campus on days where I am in enough pain that walking hurts.

As I am not able to get a disabled parking pass, and have to win a lottery and pay more for the closer parking, I have to park in the economy parking. A 15-minute walk from my car to the building I work at can be nice, as long as I am not having a bad flare up. On days when I am in pain, or that are intolerably hot, or increasingly cold, walking around campus can be a frustrating barrier to enjoying my work day.

My TRU in 2030 would see helpful aids for getting around campus, for those that don't fit the bill of normal debilitating illness, such as Segways and bikes (or golf cart service during the regular start and end times for employees) that can be at stations for employees and students to use, much like the public bike stations around cities.

It can be frustrating to have an invisible illness and still try to be functioning in a system that is meant for the governmentally recognized disabled. I feel that TRU could be a fine leader in bridging the gap for other people like me, that are afraid to speak up about their illnesses or that don't look like they are disabled in any way at all.

