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Disabled call for better Montreal metro access

By CBC News
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Since the city began installing elevators in 2008, six of Montreal's 68 metro stations have been made wheelchair accessible, and two more will soon have wheelchair access.

Members of the Regroupement Activiste Pour l'Inclusion Québec (RAPLIQ) told city council Wednesday that's not fast enough.

RAPLIQ vice-president Laurence Parent, 25, uses a walker or a wheelchair to get around, and often uses the Montreal transit authority's Paratransit service.

Parent told city council that being able to use the metro would change everything for her.

"I have to book in advance when I use Paratransit. It's a real nightmare. I'm not able to decide the same day if I want to go out or see a movie, or anything," said Parent.

City councillor and transit authority vice-chairperson Marvin Rotrand said the city is doing what it can.

"The demand that we solve this problem in the very short term is something we just cannot afford to do," said Rotrand. "If we were to divert the money out of our budget, it would hurt almost everyone who uses public transit in this city."

Adding a wheelchair-accessible elevator costs about \$15 million per metro

station, but three quarters of the cost is paid for by the provincial government.