

Access by Design 2030

Creating an Inclusive Province for Nova Scotians

Accessibility Directorate, 2020

Accessibility Act Essentials - Poll

What percentage of people in Nova Scotia are currently living with a disability?

9.5 %

17 %

30 %

(Source: Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017, Statistics Canada)

Accessibility Act Essentials

- Accessibility is a human right
- Almost 1 in 3 people in NS have a disability
- An accessible Nova Scotia by 2030
- Prevent and remove barriers with respect to:
 - ▶ Built Environment
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Information and Communications
 - ▶ Employment
 - ▶ Delivery and Receipt of Goods and Services
 - ▶ Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure



Access by Design 2030

Access by Design 2030 provides a framework for how the province will achieve our goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030 and identifies priorities for this work.

- Standards Development
- Awareness and Capacity Building
- Collaboration and Support
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- GNS – Leading by Example



Accessibility Act Essentials

- A disability is defined as “a physical, mental, intellectual, learning or sensory impairment, including an episodic disability that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders an individual’s full and effective participation in society.”



Accessibility Act Essentials

- A barrier can be physical, technological, attitudinal, or can be a policy or practice that limits a person's participation within society.



Accessibility Act Essentials

➤ Examples of Barriers

| Type of Barrier | Example |
|------------------------------|---|
| Information or Communication | Print is too small to read Signs that are not clear or easily understood |
| Technological | A website that doesn't support screen reading software |
| Attitudinal | Assuming a person with a disability can't understand you |

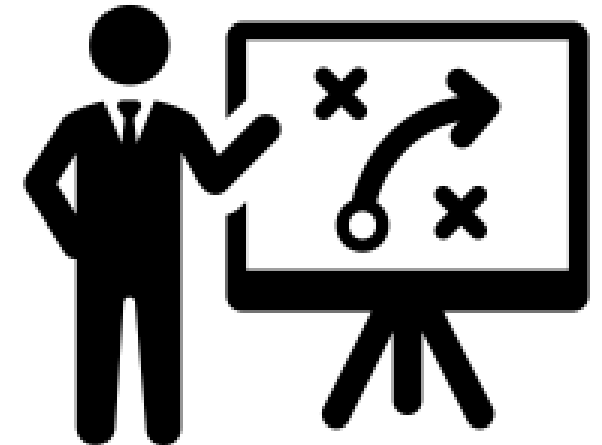
Accessibility Advisory Board

- Appointed to advise the Minister of Justice on accessibility
- Up to 12 members
- Majority are persons with disabilities



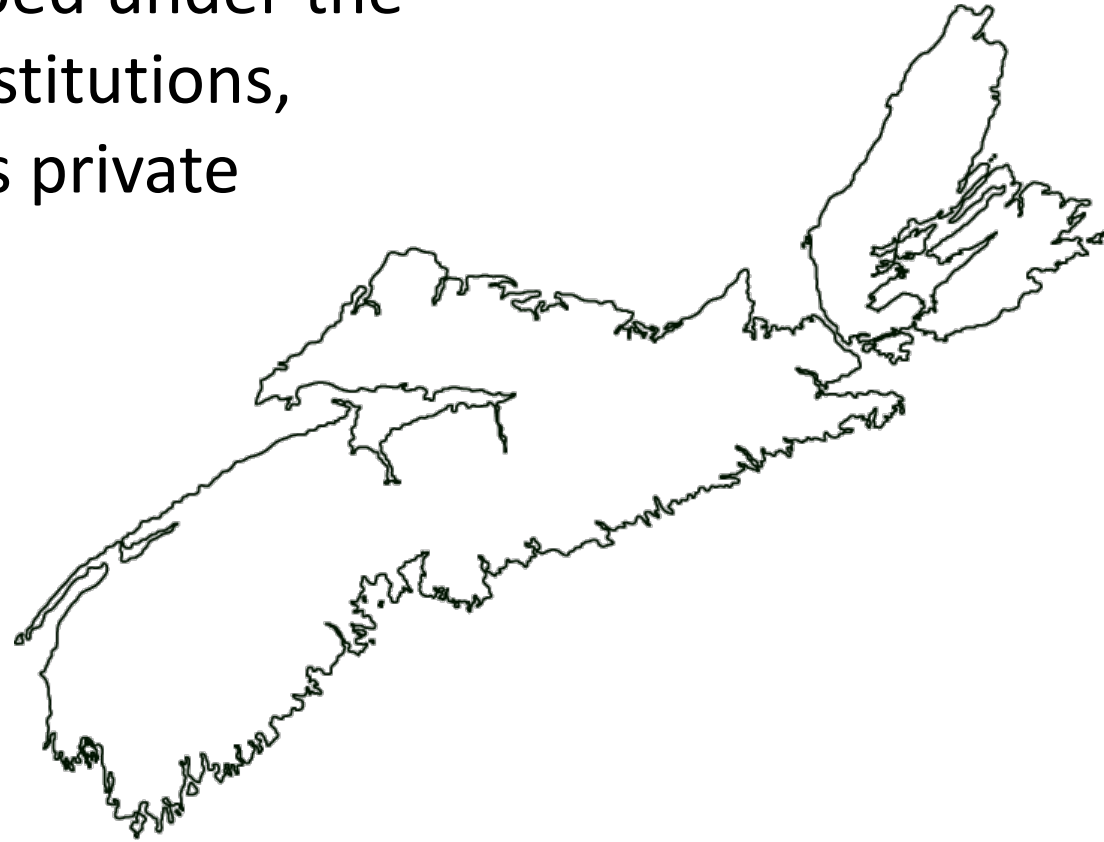
The Accessibility Directorate

- Office within the Department of Justice
- The Directorate is responsible for administering the Accessibility Act and advancing accessibility issues within government
- Works collaboratively with persons with disabilities, municipalities, businesses, post-secondary institutions, and others



Accessibility Act Essentials

- Accessibility standards will apply to the Government of Nova Scotia, public sector bodies prescribed under the Act (such as post-secondary education institutions, municipalities) and other entities, such as private businesses.



Accessibility – Standards Development

Built Environment

- ▶ Making public buildings, streets, sidewalks, and shared spaces accessible to all.



Education

- ▶ Making the education system accessible to all students, from early childhood to post-secondary



Accessibility – Standards Development

Employment

- ▶ Making workplaces accessible, and supporting people with disabilities in finding meaningful employment



Goods and Services

- ▶ Ensuring that people with disabilities have equitable access to goods and services



Information and Communication

- ▶ Ensuring all people can receive, understand, and share the information they need



Transportation

- ▶ Making it easier for everyone to get where they need to go



What are the key timelines?

- GNS was the first public body prescribed, in 2017.
- Under the Accessibility Act, Nova Scotia's universities, NSCC, Libraries and Municipalities were prescribed as public sector bodies effective April 1, 2020.
- Prescribed Public Sector Bodies must have their plans developed and committees established one year from their prescription date.



What actions are required of Public Sector Bodies?

PSB's are required to engage in the following activities:

- Establishment of an accessibility advisory committee
- Development of multi-year institutional accessibility plans
- Complying with accessibility standards as they are developed

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