

Accessibility Act Update to the Municipality of Barrington

Accessibility Directorate

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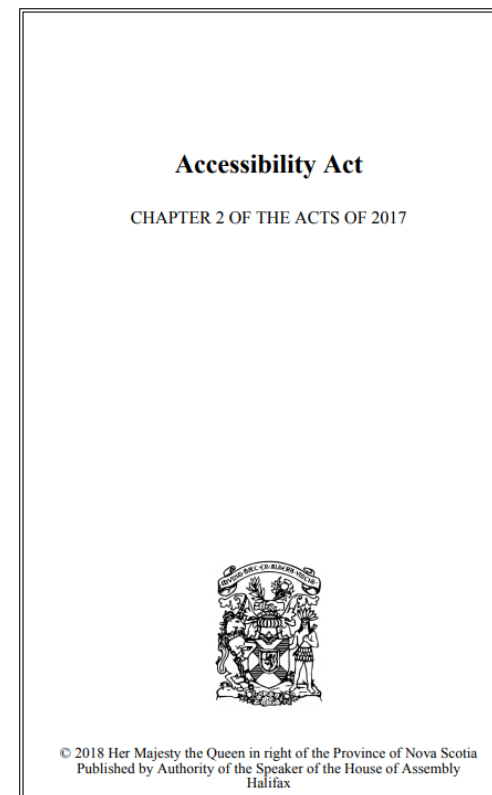
Director of Programs and Services

August 24, 2023



Nova Scotia Accessibility Act

- Passed on September 18, 2017
- 3rd province in Canada to have accessibility legislation
- Set a goal of an accessible province by 2030
- Prevent and remove barriers in:
 - Built Environment
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Goods and Services
 - Information and Communication Technology
 - Public Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure



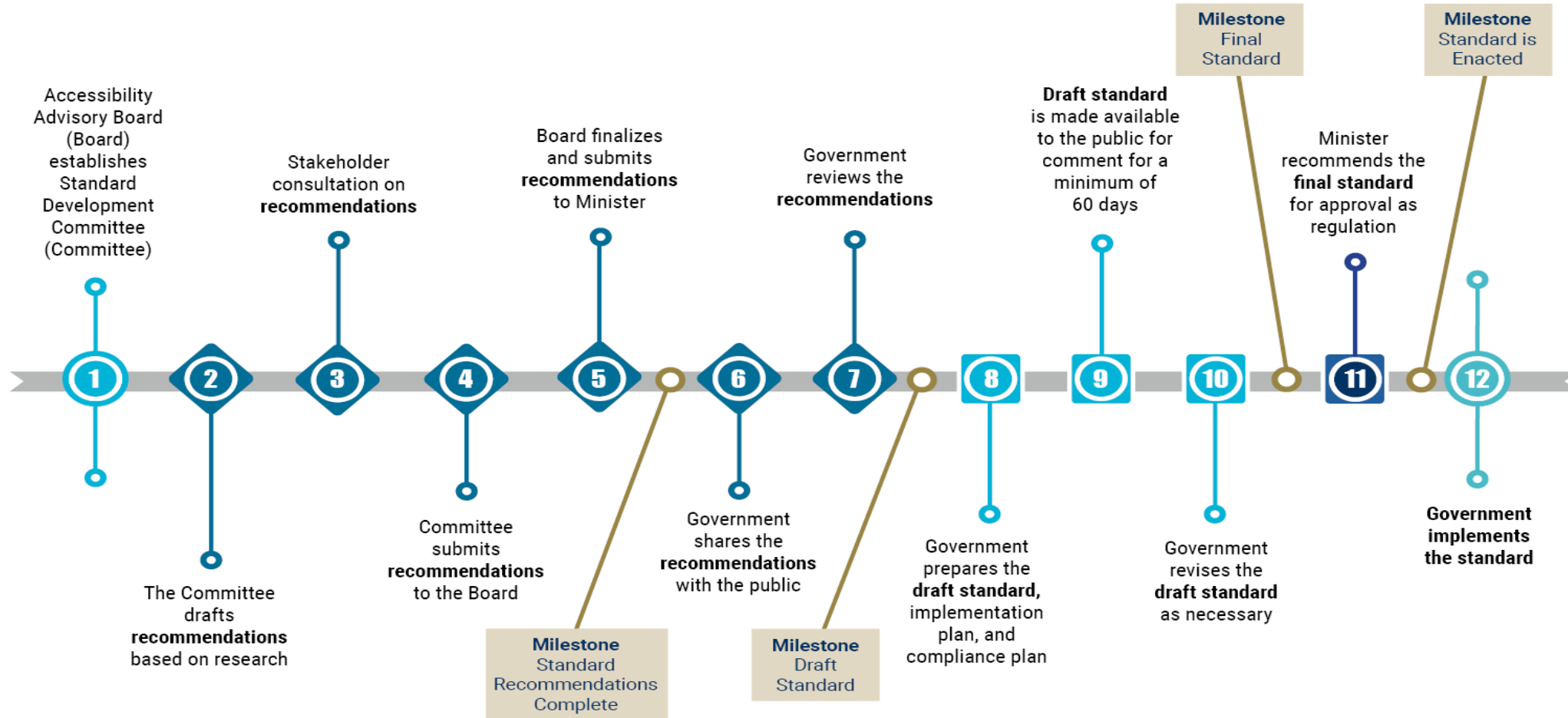
Access By Design 2030

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

- Standards Development (6)
- Awareness and Capacity Building
- Collaboration and Support
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Government Leading by Example



Standards Development & Implementation Process



Definitions

Standard - A set of rules that government, businesses and other organizations must follow.

Accessibility Advisory Board - A group of community members who have been appointed to the Board provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Justice about ways to make Nova Scotia accessible. Most of the members are people with disabilities.

Standard Development Committee - A group of experts from the community and government who have experience in areas like architecture, urban planning, engineering, and accessibility. Most of the members are people with disabilities.

Standard Development – Built Environment

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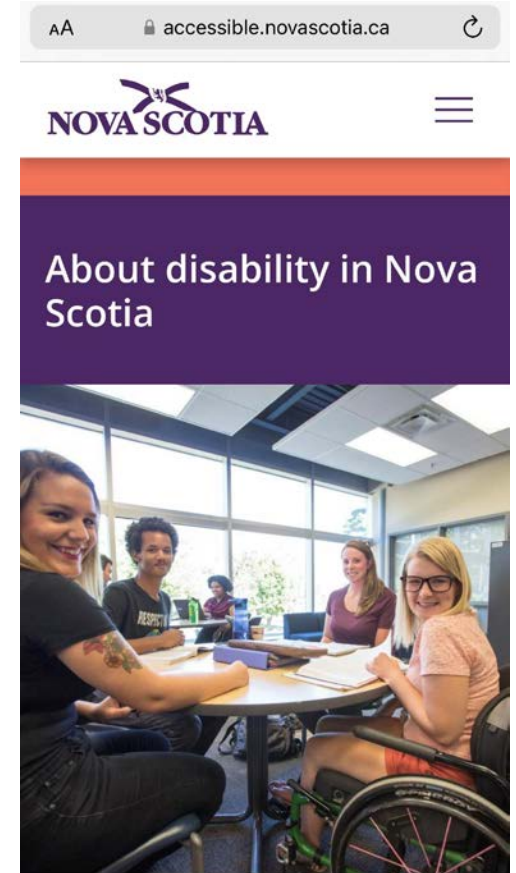
- 2019 - 2021: Standard Development Committee prepared recommendations in two phases
- 2020 & 2021: Recommendations were submitted to the Minister of Justice for development into an accessibility standard.
- 2021 - 2023: Interdepartmental Working Group drafting standard, implementation plan, and compliance plan
- Late Summer 2023: Post publicly for comment (min. 60 days)
- 2024 onward: Standard is enacted and implemented.

Standard Development

- 2. Education** Standard Development Committee submitted recommendations to Minister in two phases: 2020 and January 2023. Government beginning to review the recommendations.
- 3. Employment** Standard Development committee established and working on recommendations. Consultations on draft recommendations planned for this fall.
- 4. Goods and Services** Standard Development Committee membership was announced and meetings began in June.
- 5. Public Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure** – research work has begun and SDC recruitment will begin this year.
- 6. Information and Communications** – research work has also begun.

Awareness and Capacity Building

- Stigma and attitudinal barriers
- ***Access includes everyone*** public awareness campaign
- Increase awareness of accessibility, barriers and human rights
- Media
 - Television
 - Social media
 - Digital media
- Website: ***accessible.novascotia.ca***
- Photography campaign



Awareness and Capacity Building

- Resource Hub:
<https://accessible.novascotia.ca/resources>
- Working together to promote:
 - Access Awareness Week (May/June)
 - Disability Employment Awareness Month (October)
 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3)
- Evaluation and planning



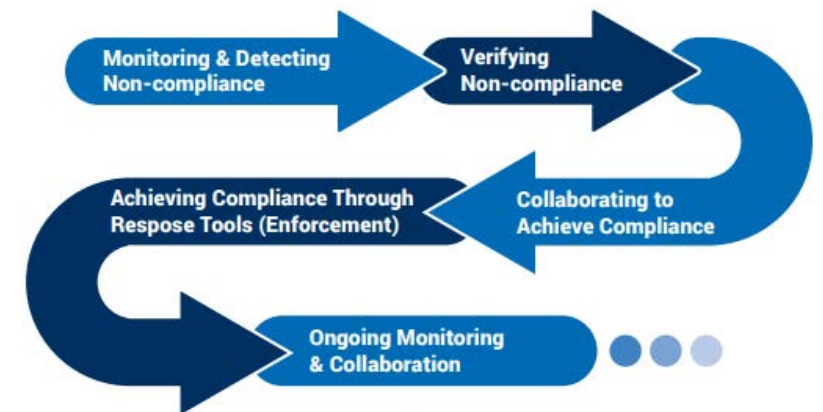
Collaboration and Support

- Virtual Gatherings and Resources:
 - Introduction to Disability
 - *Introduction to Accessibility Barriers*
 - Disability in the Workplace
 - Engaging with Persons with Disabilities
 - Accessibility Foundations Training
- Grants to support capacity building
 - MSVU and NSCC
 - AMANS – Municipal Accessibility Coordinator
 - Disability Partnership – Easter Seals NS
- Funding opportunities
 - Accessibility-specific as well as other opportunities
 - Supporting other initiatives – Communauto, Nova Ramp Up



Compliance and Enforcement

- Accessibility Act includes requirements to monitor and enforce compliance
- Compliance Framework **developed collaboratively**
- Emphasis on **education and awareness**
 - Supporting organizations to comply
- Enforcement measures may be used :
 - If collaborative efforts do not result in compliance
 - Orders, Administrative Penalties, Summary Conviction



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Compliance and Enforcement - Accessibility Plans

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- Cohort 1 (90 prescribed public sector bodies)
 - 70 Municipalities, 11 Post-Secondary, 9 Libraries
 - 81 (90%) have developed accessibility plans
 - 9 (10%) have not completed plans
- Cohort 2 (15 prescribed public sector bodies)
 - 4 (27%) have developed accessibility plans
 - 11 (73%) have not completed plans

- The Accessibility Directorate is following up in September to check on plan status

Update as of August 22, 2023



Evaluation and Monitoring

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- Accessibility Act Review Report
 - released May 17, 2023
- Quality of Life Index – Nova Scotia League of Equal Opportunities and Engage Nova Scotia
- PPSB Evaluation Tools – MERL Working Group
- Annual Public Opinion Survey Results
 - <https://accessible.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/2023-05/Disability-and-Accessibility-in-Nova-Scotia-2023.pdf>
- Minister's Annual Reports on Accessibility



Government of Nova Scotia – Leading by Example

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- GNS Accessibility Plan 2018-2021
 - 5 priority areas
 - 23 commitments
 - 8 departments involved
 - Accessibility Directorate - 11 commitments
- Highlights of completed commitments
 - Training for government staff and managers
 - Accessibility Audit Handbook and pilot audits
 - Electronic booking for in-person Access NS
 - Provincial Parks website / Accessible beaches
 - Bluenose II ramp



Government of Nova Scotia – Leading by Example

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- Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan 2022-2025 – released in December 2022
 - 8 priority areas
 - 6 government wide commitments
 - 47 individual and joint commitments
- Highlights of commitments
 - Embed accessibility into govt policy and planning
 - Accessibility in public housing, schools, buildings
 - PSC employment systems review
 - Remove barriers to govt programs and services
- Accessibility Interdepartmental Committee



Questions and Discussion

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