

Access by Design 2030

Achieving an Accessible Nova Scotia



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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



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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.”
- A barrier can be physical technological, attitudinal, or can be a policy of practice that limits a person’s participation within society.
- Examples of barriers:
 - Information and Communication: print is too small to read
 - Technological: website doesn’t support screen reading software

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 and municipalities) and other entities, such as private businesses.



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Access by Design 2030

Access by Design 2030 provides a framework for how the Province will achieve its 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
- Leading by Example

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

Key Timelines

- The Province 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. Due to COVID-19 the date has been extended to April 1, 2021.
- Prescribed Public Sector Bodies must have their plans developed and committees established one year from their prescription date.

Required Actions

- As a prescribed Public Sector Body, municipalities are required to:
 - Establish an accessibility advisory committee.
 - Develop a multi-year institutional accessibility plan that is updated every 3 years.
 - Comply with accessibility standards as they are developed.

Information and Resources

- [Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate](#)
 - Email: accessibility@novascotia.ca
 - Phone: 902-424-8280
 - Toll free within NS: 1-800-565-8280
 - TTY: 902-424-2667
 - Toll free within NS: 1-877-996-9954
- [The Accessibility Planning Toolkit for Municipalities](#)
- [Guide to Planning Accessible Meetings and Events](#)
- [Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces](#)



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