

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**March 4, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by the CAO at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-purpose Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Councillor George El-Jakl - Chair
 - Denise Nickerson, Nova Scotia Works – Vice Chair
 - Warden Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
 - Councillor Shaun Hatfield
 - Boyd Scott
 - Loretta Nickerson, Executive Director, Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion.
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- Chris Frotten, CAO
 - Lesa Rossetti, Accessibility Co-ordinator

Absent:

- Cameron Whiteway, Director of Property Services

INTRODUCTIONS

The CAO gave each member an opportunity to introduce themselves.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was moved that Councillor El-Jakl be nominated as Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Councillor El-Jakl accepted the nomination.

Nomination were called 3 additional times and no further nominations were brought forward.

Being duly moved and seconded that Councillor George El-Jakl be appointed Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councillor El-Jakl took the Chair.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was moved that Denise Nickerson be nominated as Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Denise Nickerson accepted the nomination.

Nomination were called 3 additional times and no further nominations were brought forward.

Being duly moved and seconded that Denise Nickerson be appointed Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the committee were reviewed.

ACCESS BY DESIGN 2030

A power point presentation was provided by the CAO and a copy is attached and forms part of the minutes.

The presentation outlined the following:

- Accessibility Act Essentials
- Access by Design 2030
- Accessibility Advisory Board
- The Accessibility Directorate
- Key Timelines
- Required Actions
- Information and Resources

It was noted that the Committee's first task is to develop a multi-year institutional accessibility plan that is updated every 3 years.

It was noted that in Nova Scotia 1 in 3 people have a disability. Question was raised regarding the disability ratio in the Municipality. The CAO agreed to check Statistics Canada and will provided information to members.

PLANNED UPGRADES TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

The CAO informed members that the Municipality was successful in receiving funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of making the Administrative Centre more accessible. Upgrades will include the following:

- upgrade or repair existing wheelchair ramps to meet Codes
- ensure one accessible washroom on each level.
- will assess auto door openers on all outside doors.

It is anticipated that funding received will cover 99% of the costs of upgrades.

DISCUSSION ON NEXT STEPS

Discussion took place on next steps to be taken by the committee. It was agreed that staff would provide information on how to develop a plan and identify key milestones for consideration of the committee.

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NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

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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