



Digital Government and Service NL

Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board

Annual Activity Report
2021-22

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022,
the fiscal year of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board.

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Chairperson's Message

As Chair of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board (the Board), I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for 2021-22.

This report is prepared in compliance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, which categorizes the Board as a Category Three Government Entity, and requires the Board to submit an annual report. The Board is accountable for the preparation of this report and the results reported.

On behalf of the members of the Board, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to working closely with all stakeholders to provide strategic advice to the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL on the application of the **Buildings Accessibility Act** and its associated regulations.

Yours truly,



Dennis Gill
Chair

Overview

The Board is appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council under the authority of section 18 of the **Buildings Accessibility Act** (the Act). The duties and responsibilities of the Board are established pursuant to section 19 of the Act. They include reporting to and advising the Minister on the application of this Act and the regulations, and on other matters in relation to this Act and the regulations that may be assigned to the Board by the Minister.

Representation

The Board consists of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and representatives of persons with disabilities. One representative is from Digital Government and Service NL (other than the Director of Engineering and Inspection Services). Included also are members whom the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint. This public body serves solely in an advisory capacity and for 2021-2022, the members were:

- Dennis Gill, Chairperson
- Brittany Moulard, Vice-Chairperson
- Emily Fouchard
- Robert Menchenton
- Randy Sooley
- Rose Wilson

Mandate

The Board's mandate is to report to and advise the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL on the application of the Act and its associated regulations, and on other matters related to the Act and regulations that may be assigned to the Board by the Minister.

Vision

The Board works to ensure the fair and equitable application of its mandate as outlined in the legislation.

Highlights and Partnerships

The Board provides advice to the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL and engages with various groups as deemed pertinent. Actions and recommendations of the Board benefit the general public, particularly those with disabilities and those representing the interests of persons with disabilities.

Revenues and Expenditures

The Board is funded through the operating budget of Digital Government and Service NL. Revenues are not generated. Approximately \$2,500 is reserved for remuneration, of which \$1,385 was paid to members. Meeting, travel and per diem expenses are incorporated as part of the budget; due to virtual meetings, no such expenses were incurred for 2021-22.

Report on Performance

This document outlines the Board's activities from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, including the goals and objectives achieved as outlined in the 2020-23 Activity Plan.

Objective: By March 31, 2021, 2022, and 2023, the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board will have advised the Minister on matters pertaining to accessibility in buildings, associated entrances, parking spaces, walkways and other facilities, as per its mandate.

Indicators

- Meetings held, as required.
- Advice provided to Minister on the application of the Act and regulations.
- Other activities undertaken, as assigned by the Minister.

The Board will continue to report on the above objective and indicators for the one year remaining in the Activity Plan.

Results Achieved

- During the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Board met on three occasions to finalize their recommendations for amending the **Buildings Accessibility Act**, the purpose of which is to improve upon the accessibility of people with diverse abilities in a dignified and respectful manner.
- One of these meetings included a review of the proposed recommendations with the Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, for the purposes of soliciting their input.
- On July 9, 2021, the Board submitted their recommended legislative amendments to the Minister ([Building-Accessibility-Advisory-Board-Recommendations-for-Legislative-Changes.pdf \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)) and subsequently met with the Ministers of Digital Government and Service NL and Children, Seniors and Social Development on August 2, 2021, to further discuss the recommendations.
- On January 4, 2022, the Board Chair was interviewed by CBC Radio's 'On the Go'.

- During January/February 2022, Board members participated in three virtual stakeholder consultation sessions on the proposed recommendations, led by the Minister.
- On March 29, 2022, the Board met to review feedback received through the public consultations held by the Department of Digital Government and Service NL.

Opportunities and Challenges

Given the financial and economic challenges imposed on all areas of the province due to the COVID-19 pandemic, building owners will be challenged to make adjustments to improve accessibility. The Board will therefore be challenged to advise the Minister accordingly, to support enhanced accessibility throughout the Province.

With the proclamation of the new the **Accessibility Act**, the Board has the opportunity to further enhance accessibility outcomes in the built environment.

Financial Statements

The Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board is not required to submit audited financial statements.