

**Nova Scotia Accessibility Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 10, 2021 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Attendance: Rosalind Penfound (Chair), David Caswell (Vice-Chair), Cynthia Bruce, Linda Campbell, Birgit Elssner, Andrew Jantzen, Ellen Johnson, Jenny-Rachel Lind, Marcie Shwery-Stanley.

Regrets: Anne Sinclair.

Staff: Dawn Stegen (Interim Executive Director), Terri Lynn Almeda, Joshua Bates, Carla Bezanson, Lisa Jacobs, Amy Middleton, Caroline Read Kendell, Lashauna Smith.

1. Welcome

Rosalind Penfound, Chair, welcomed everyone to the Accessibility Advisory Board meeting with a Mi'kmaq land acknowledgement.

2. Board Operations

a. Review of Agenda

The Board reviewed and accepted the agenda as circulated.

b. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2021

Motion: David Caswell moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting. Marcie Shwery-Stanley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Outstanding Business

Rosalind Penfound provided updates regarding outstanding business from the May 13, 2021 meeting.

i. Accessible Housing

Rosalind reviewed the key accessible housing issues highlighted by consultant Max Chauvin at the May 13, 2021 meeting. Dawn Stegen provided an overview of the issues related to housing that the Board would like to focus on.

ACTION: The Accessibility Directorate will assist the Board in finding appropriate speaker(s) for the August and September Board meeting to address questions raised regarding affordable, accessible housing.

ii. Board Work Plan

A decision was made to defer this agenda item to the August meeting. David Caswell spoke to the Board workplan. More analysis will be done on feedback received from the Board, and information will be forthcoming.

3. Accessibility Advisory Board

a. Standard Development Committees

i. Education

Rosalind Penfound provided an update on the Education Standards Development Committee. The committee is planning engagement sessions with stakeholders to provide input on the Phase 2 draft recommendations. There will be no Education SDC meetings over the summer, but work will continue with a target of submitting Phase 2 Recommendations to the Minister in the fall.

Rosalind Penfound introduced a letter she received from the Minister of Justice regarding an alternative approach to implementation of Phase 1 recommendations. She and Cynthia Bruce both expressed support of the approach minister is considering, noting it was reasonable. Discussion followed.

ACTION: Rosalind Penfound will respond to the Minister regarding the alternative approach for Phase 1 recommendations for an accessibility standard in Education on or before June 18.

ii. Built Environment

Rosalind Penfound introduced Laurie Cranton, Chair of the Built Environment Standard Development Committee. Laurie provided an update from the May 26, 2021 meeting of the Built Environment Standard Development Committee (SDC).

At the May 26th, 2021 meeting, the SDC received a presentation from Josh Bates, Accessibility Directorate, on the Compliance and Enforcement Working Group. The SDC is on track to finalize their recommendations on June 28 and will present to the Board at the July 13 meeting.

Rosalind Penfound presented an overview of what the Board can expect when the Phase 2 Recommendations are presented for review and approval on July 13. In advance of the meeting, Board members will receive and review the recommendations and share questions or concerns with Accessibility Directorate. The presentation at the July Board meeting will consist of a guiding the Board through each section of the recommendations, highlighting concerns or key points, allotting time for questions and further discussion, and voting using the Board's consensus decision-making model.

iii. Employment

Lashauna Smith, Accessibility Directorate, provided an update on the recruitment package approved by the Board, which was approved by the Minister's office. The Accessibility Directorate is now working with CNS on materials related to recruitment launch, and website content.

b. COVID 19: In-Home Vaccination Program

Rosalind Penfound introduced guests and senior officials of the Department of Health and Wellness immunization team, Associate Deputy Minister Tracey Barbrick, Director Kim Silver, and Director Glenda Keenan.

An update on vaccination roll-out, data, models, and focus areas was provided. Two new models are being introduced: drive-thru vaccinations and homebound vaccinations. Accessibility improvements are being made to the website, materials, and booking supports. The province is finalizing a process to expand in-home vaccinations to individuals who are not affiliated with continuing care.

The Board had a fulsome discussion and recommended more information on accessibility and what to expect be provided on the website and that the availability of in-home COVID testing be promoted more widely.

4. Other Business

a. Compliance and Enforcement

Rosalind Penfound introduced Josh Bates, Accessibility Directorate, to provide an update on preliminary recommendations from the Compliance and Enforcement Working Group.

Key principles of the Compliance and Enforcement recommendations include ensuring education is at the heart of the process, providing a variety of ways to detect non-compliance, and responding collaborative to instances of non-compliance, including understanding the reasons for non-compliance. Additionally, recommendations include only issuing penalties after repeated non-compliance and documenting all instances of non-compliance as well as actions taken.

There were questions from the Board around who the inspectors will be. Josh Bates replied noting there will be different inspectors for different standard areas. There was also discussion around the citizen-centred approach and how communities that are impacted are being involved in formulating the regulations.

b. Omnibus Survey Update

A decision was made to defer this update to the August meeting.

c. The Office of Equity and Anti Racism Initiatives

Rosalind Penfound introduced Kathy Cox-Brown, Angela Simmonds, and Christine Gibbons who provided a presentation on the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives. Christine Gibbons passed on regrets from Deputy Berliner.

Key areas of work are community and engagement, policy, data and public reporting, and partnerships. Current projects are the Land Titles Initiative, Individual Program Plan Equity Evaluation, and Race Based Data.

The Board asked how the Office of Equity and Anti-racism will tackle lack of trust within the community. Christine Gibbons commented on the work of the Office to connect with community and their authenticity has created a positive rapport. There was discussion about how the Office of Equity and Anti-racism will engage and work with the Accessibility Directorate. Rosalind Penfound thanked the guests and asked them to pass the Board's regards onto Deputy Berliner.

5. Adjournment

Rosalind Penfound adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting will be on July 13, 2021.