

Nova Scotia Accessibility Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Friday, February 8, 2019 - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm
NSCC Institute of Technology Campus, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax

Attendance

Board: Doug Foster (Chair), Rosalind Penfound (Vice-Chair), Barry Abbott, Cynthia Bruce, David Caswell, Alex Peeler, Gus Reed, Kevin Russell, Marcie Shwery-Stanley, Anne Sinclair

Regrets: Amy Parsons

Staff: Gerry Post (Executive Director), Joshua Bates, Kathaleen Fitzgerald, Amy Middleton, Lashauna Smith

Guests: Joe Rogers, Municipal Affairs; Melissa MacKinnon, Communications Nova Scotia; Cathy MacIsaac, Communications Nova Scotia; Jodi Sibley, Communications Nova Scotia; Greg Sewell, Communities, Culture and Heritage

1. Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2018 Meeting

Motion: Barry Abbott moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting, as presented. Cynthia Bruce seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Follow up from December 10, 2018 Retreat Discussion

- Lashauna Smith, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of Board values, priorities, and workplan developed out of discussion at the December 10, 2018 retreat.

Action: Accessibility Directorate staff will make amendments to the Accessibility Advisory Board Values document, as discussed. The revised values document will be circulated to the Accessibility Advisory Board for approval.

Action: The Accessibility Advisory Board recommended establishment of a sub-group to discuss board priorities and actions specific to awareness, education and communications. Barry Abbott, Cynthia Bruce, and Marcie Shwery-Stanley put their names forward for this sub-group. Accessibility Directorate staff will reach out to Amy Parsons to confirm her interest in being a member, and coordinate a meeting of this sub-group prior to the next Accessibility Advisory Board meeting.

3. Standard Development Committees – Approval of Membership Recommendations

a. Education Standards Development Committee

- Amy Middleton, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the process for recruiting and selecting members for the Standards Development Committees (SDCs).

- A sub-committee of Accessibility Advisory Board members conducted the review and assessment of applications to the Education SDC. This sub-committee was comprised of: Amy Parsons, Cynthia Bruce, Alex Peeler, Rosalind Penfound.
- A total of 75 applications were received for the Education Standards Development Committee.
- The sub-committee reviewed and provided recommendations for membership of the Education Standard Development Committee to the Accessibility Advisory Board for their consideration.

Motion: Barry Abbott moved to approve the recommendations for the Education SDC membership, as proposed by the sub-committee. Motion was seconded by Rosalind Penfound. Motion carried unanimously.

Action: The Accessibility Advisory Board recommendations for the Education SDC will be put forward to the Minister of Justice for approval.

b. Built Environment Standards Development Committee

- Josh Bates, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the review of applications for the Built Environment SDC. A sub-committee of Accessibility Advisory Board members conducted the review and assessment. This sub-committee was comprised of: Barry Abbott, Douglas Foster, Kevin Russell, Anne Sinclair, Marcie Shwery-Stanley.
- A total of 68 applications were received for the Built Environment Standards Development Committee.
- The sub-committee reviewed and provided recommendations for membership of the Built Environment Standard Development Committee to the Accessibility Advisory Board for their consideration.

Motion: Douglas Foster moved to approve the recommendations for Built Environment SDC membership, as proposed by the sub-committee. Motion was seconded by Marcie Shwery-Stanley and carried unanimously.

Action: The Accessibility Advisory Board recommendations for the Built Environment SDC will be put forward to the Minister of Justice for approval.

In addition to approving recommendations on SDC composition, the Accessibility Advisory Board recommended that:

- Consultations of the Education SDC include Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and others involved in education for Indigenous students.
- Standards Development Committees ensure engagement and consultation with stakeholder groups under represented within the SDC members.

4. Presentation – Nova Scotia Building Code

The Accessibility Advisory Board received a presentation from Joe Rogers, Building Code Coordinator, Department of Municipal Affairs. The purpose of the presentation was to provide an overview of the current Nova Scotia Building Code requirements respecting accessibility.

5. Presentation – Communications Nova Scotia

The Accessibility Advisory Board received a presentation from Communications Nova Scotia staff: Melissa MacKinnon, Associate Deputy Minister; Cathy MacIsaac, Managing Director; and Jodi Sibley, Communications Advisor for the Department of Justice. The focus of the presentation was on work underway by Communications Nova Scotia to advance priorities within Access by Design 2030 and the Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan.

6. Presentation – Accessible Transportation Assistance Program

The Accessibility Advisory Board received a presentation on the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program from Greg Sewell, Executive Lead, Community Transportation, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. The purpose of the presentation was to seek the Accessibility Advisory Board's input on proposed changes to the program.

Action: The Accessibility Advisory Board indicated that additional information on the transportation funding programs delivered by Communities, Culture and Heritage is required before feedback could be provided. The Accessibility Directorate will work with Communities, Culture and Heritage to provide this information.

7. Other Business

No additional business.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.