

Nova Scotia Accessibility Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Friday September 21, 2018, 9:00 am – 4:00 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, Amy Parsons, Alex Peeler, Gus Reed, Kevin Russell, Marcie Shwery-Stanley, Anne Sinclair

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

1. Approval of Minutes

- **Motion**: Barry Abbott moved to approve minutes of the May 31, 2018 and June 14, 2018 meetings as presented. Motion seconded, and carried unanimously.

2. Accessibility Standards Development

- Lashauna Smith provided an overview of the standards development process.
- Amy Middleton provided an overview of the draft Terms of Reference template to be used for both the education and built environment standard development committees. Josh Bates and Amy Middleton reviewed the scopes drafted to guide the work of the education and built environment committees.
- **Action**: Accessibility Directorate staff will make changes to the Terms of Reference template and committee scopes as discussed.
- Two subcommittees were established to provide recommendations to the board on the recruitment and selection of standard development committee members:
 - o Education – Cynthia Bruce, Amy Parsons, Alex Peeler, Rosalind Penfound
 - o Built Environment – Barry Abbott, Doug Foster, Kevin Russell, Marcie Shwery-Stanley, Anne Sinclair
 - o **Action** – Accessibility Directorate staff will coordinate meetings of these sub-committees in the coming weeks.

3. Municipal Update

- Gerry Post updated the board on initiatives relevant to municipalities: the Department of Municipal Affairs is providing training to building inspectors on the accessibility components in the building code; the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Assessor Training at NSCC this fall will be open to municipal staff.
- Josh Bates provided an overview of the work being done by the Town of Wolfville to develop an accessibility plan. The Directorate will use Wolfville's experience to inform the development of a handbook to assist municipalities in establishing accessibility committees and developing accessibility plans.

- Deferred: Overview of the municipal public space guidelines being developed by the Provincial/Municipal Accessibility Working Group.

4. Other Business

- Meeting schedule – the board plans to meet in-person approximately every 2 months until June 2019. **Action**: Accessibility Directorate staff will send potential meeting dates to board members for confirmation.
- Recommendation for harmonization of government forms – Gus Reed advised that, in an effort to reduce the number of forms required to be completed by a physician for persons with disabilities to access services, Independent Living Nova Scotia is advocating that the comprehensive form used to apply for the Federal Disability Tax Credit Certificate be used at the provincial level. **Action**: Gus Reed will send board members further information about this issue, and a proposal for the board's involvement in this initiative.
- Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission ruling on accessible washrooms – Gus Reed provided an update on the recent ruling by the Human Rights Tribunal [Reed, Marston, Vienneau, MacDonald and McKenna v. Province of Nova Scotia (Dept. of Environment)], and asked the Board to make a resolution in support of the decision. **Action**: Gus Reed will circulate a draft resolution to the board for review and consideration.
- Deferred: Voice recognition software

5. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned.