

# **Nova Scotia Accessibility Advisory Board Meeting Summary**

July 30, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 pm

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

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

Guests: Laurie Cranton, Chair, and Ramzi Kawar, Vice-Chair, Built Environment Standard Development Committee

Staff: Dawn Stegen (Interim Executive Director), Gerry Post (Leadership Transition), Terri Lynn Almeda, Amy Middleton, Caroline Read Kendell, Jenny Sears, Avery Maynard, Laura Beth MacPherson, Lisa Jacobs

## **1. Welcome**

Rosalind Penfound, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the Accessibility Advisory Board meeting.

## **2. Board Operations**

### **a. Review of Agenda**

The Board reviewed and accepted the agenda. The Board noted that as this meeting is focused on the Build Environment Standards, the action items from the June 11, 2020, meeting will be reviewed at the August 18, 2020 meeting.

## **3. Education Standards**

Rosalind Penfound, Vice Chair, proposed a revision to the Education Standards recommendations approved at the July 28, 2020 AAB meeting, to include a definition for language deprivation would be considered in more detail during the drafting of Phase 2 recommendations.

**Motion:** Rosalind Penfound moved that the Accessibility Advisory Board accept the Phase 1 recommendations as submitted by the Education Standard Development Committee on July 28, 2020, Cynthia Bruce seconded the motion. Motion was carried by consensus, as per the consensus decision making model.

#### **4. Built Environment Standards**

Laurie Cranton, Chair, and Ramzi Kavar, Vice Chair of the Built Environment Standard Development Committee presented the Built Environment Standard Development Committee (SDC)'s Phase 1 Recommendations for Accessibility Standards in the Built Environment.

The SDC made 68 recommendations to the Board that focus on addressing gaps in existing regulations in the following topic areas: accessible parking, pedestrian facilities, exterior approaches, site selection, wayfinding and signage, washrooms, interiors, emergency systems, housing and residences, and parks and recreation.

The SDC considered information provided through a jurisdictional review, analysis of existing codes and guidelines, and presentations from subject matter experts and relevant government departments in the creation of these recommendations. In March 2020, the draft recommendations were consulted on in targeted public consultation with persons with disabilities, Deaf and neurodivergent persons; representatives of organizations representing persons with disabilities, Deaf and neurodivergent persons; representatives of organizations to be subject to the standards; representatives of government entities; and members of the public. The feedback from these consultations informed the recommendations on accessibility standards that were presented to the AAB.

The SDC will expand on these areas in more technical detail as they develop their Phase 2 recommendations.

The Built Environment Standard Development Committee recommended that Phase 1 Recommendations be implemented as provincial guidelines endorsed by Government.

The Board discussed the recommendations in detail and identified 16 amendments to the recommendations that they felt would better ensure full accessibility for a full array of disabilities.

A decision to approve the recommendations as presented was deferred until the Board can review the identified amendments. Staff will draft the amendments and the Board will be presented with a revised document for review and decision by email.

#### **5. Accessibility Advisory Board Member Recruitment**

Dawn Stegen, Accessibility Directorate, informed the Board that there are two AAB vacancies at this time, and nine of the 10 currently occupied Board positions will

expire in February 2021. Dawn Stegen informed members that existing AAB members who want to serve a second term must reapply. She also said that the AD will be developing and implementing a promotional campaign to recruit new AAB members.

## **6. Next Meeting**

Rosalind Penfound confirmed that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 18, 2020.

## **7. Adjournment**