

# Accessibility Advisory Board

## Annual Report 2023–2024





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# Message from the Chair

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On behalf of the Accessibility Advisory Board, welcome to our annual report. I invite you to read about the work we contributed to and collaborated on from April 2023 to March 2024.

I am honoured to serve as chair for the next few years. This will be an exciting time for the board as we work towards making Nova Scotia more accessible.

A key priority for the board this past year, was leading the development of recommendations for standards in the areas of education, employment, and goods and services as well as providing advice to the Minister of Justice on the built environment standard. We began the work to develop recommendations for a standard for public transportation and information and communication.

During this past year, we advised the minister on its response to the first independent review of the Accessibility Act. We reviewed the recommendations related to the board and accessibility standards. Through this work, we helped government identify where improvements and changes can be made so we can achieve our accessibility goals.

We met with government departments and community organizations to discuss and learn about disability related issues and accessibility work underway. Board members from across the province contributed to accessibility initiatives in their local communities and with their own employers. Our members began developing a new website for the board where Nova Scotians can learn more about the board and the Accessibility Act.

In the coming year, we will continue to support the committees developing recommendations for accessibility standards and advise the Minister of Justice about issues affecting Nova Scotians with disabilities. Nova Scotia's disability rate continues to be the highest in the country reminding us how important it is to help prevent and remove barriers and make our province more accessible.

Sincerely,  
Max Chauvin  
Chair, Accessibility Advisory Board

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# About the Accessibility Advisory Board

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## OUR VALUES

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### **First Voice**

People with disabilities are experts on accessibility. Our work is guided by their lived experience and professional knowledge. We make their points of view our priority.

### **Respect**

We must be respectful and considerate to each other. We must also be respectful and considerate to everyone who works with the board. We encourage open and direct discussions. We welcome different points of view.

### **Human Rights**

Accessibility is a human right. We are committed to making sure that all Nova Scotians have the same rights, as stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

### **Diversity**

We work for all Nova Scotians. We look for accessibility solutions for people with different abilities, disabilities, and backgrounds. There are many kinds of disabilities. We are mindful that people with disabilities have diverse lived experiences, identities, and circumstances.

### **Collaboration**

We encourage people from different sectors with diverse interests to all work together. We are mindful of the different points of view about accessibility that interested and affected groups hold. These groups include government, business, and community organizations.

### **Innovation**

We must be creative, responsive, and flexible to make Nova Scotia more accessible. Our work considers both well-established and new research on accessibility.

## OUR PRIORITIES

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- Board Operations
- Accessibility Standards Development
- Awareness and Capacity Building
- Collaboration and Support
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan

## OUR MANDATE

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The Accessibility Advisory Board was set up in 2018. This board was created as part of the requirements of the Accessibility Act. We offer advice and recommendations about accessibility in Nova Scotia to the Minister of Justice.

- We suggest ways government can make Nova Scotia more accessible, including measures, policies, practices, and requirements.
- We review what government is doing now and decide if it aligns with the Accessibility Act.
- We recommend the order in which accessibility standards should be developed and set timelines for when they should be put into action.
- We set long-term goals that can be met under the Accessibility Act.

## OUR PROCESS

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We use a consensus decision-making model. This tool helps us to make sure all views are included when we make decisions. It helps us to make decisions that all board members are comfortable with.

## OUR MEMBERS

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The Accessibility Advisory Board has up to 12 members. Each member serves on the board for up to three years. Members may choose to apply for a second three-year term.

Most board members are people with disabilities. We all have expertise and experience in many areas of accessibility. We live in communities across Nova Scotia. Some of us have experience with groups, businesses, and organizations that will need to follow the accessibility standards.

With the appointment of four new members and two reinstatements to our board this past year, we increased racial and cultural diversity, and broadened the range of experience, including representation from individuals with disabilities. Applications to serve on the board are accepted on an ongoing basis. If you would like to be a part of our work, please [apply online](#).

## ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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*(as of March 2024)*



**Max Chauvin** (chair) is a senior executive leader and community advocate. He has over 30 years of experience in multiple sectors. Max is currently the Director of Housing and Homelessness for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Why Max serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: “I love serving on the board because of the amazing people you get to work with and the in-depth conversations the board has on critical issues in our communities that dramatically impact the lives of our friends, neighbours, and colleagues.”



**Ellen Johnson** (vice chair) is an occupational therapist working as an accessibility coordinator for the five municipalities in Lunenburg County. As a person with a disability, she has worked to increase accessibility for herself and for others in her professional work, as a member of multiple boards and committees, and through other advocacy activities.

Why Ellen serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: “The work of removing barriers to accessibility in our communities is sometimes overwhelming and can be slow. Accessibility is a human right and that must be understood by decision makers. The board is one way to ensure that the needs and rights of people with disabilities are given the recognition they deserve so that accessibility stops being an afterthought and is instead built into everything we do at every level of decision-making. Being a member of the board means being part of that process of bringing awareness to problems and guiding the change.”



**Dr. Linda Campbell** is a professor and senior research fellow in the Department of Environmental Science at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. She is Deaf and fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and English. Dr. Campbell received the 2020 Professional of Distinction Discovery Award. She has developed innovative approaches for including Deaf and hearing participants in research and teaching, as well as collaborative ASL–English scientific and academic interpreting. She also sits on the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees, the only liberal arts university in the world using sign language as a primary language of instruction. Dr. Campbell was one of the founding members of the Nova Scotia Bill 59 Community Alliance, which collaborated with the government on drafting Bill 59. Bill 59 became the 2017 Nova Scotia Accessibility Act.

Why Dr. Campbell serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: "Because it is a way of giving back to the Deaf and disability communities. I am always inspired by being able to work with like-minded colleagues on ensuring that we have an accessible province by 2030."



**Birgit Elssner** (or B) comes from a First Voice perspective and enjoys life through the eyes of neurodiversity. She has lived and worked with people with disabilities for close to 30 years and in three different countries. She currently lives in Wolfville.

Why Birgit serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: "Being part of the board gives me the unique opportunity to be a voice for those who might be unheard by society. I value being able to share my thoughts on a diverse array of topics related to disability, advocacy, communications, and humanness. I find it fantastic to be able to get a much deeper understanding of policies, actions, and government workings, and it gives me the hope that my contribution will shape Nova Scotia's future."





**Denise Pictou Maloney** is the Senior Advisor of Mi'kmaw and Indigenous Initiatives at the Nova Scotia Community College. In her role, Denise provides leadership in mobilizing relevant initiatives and promotes understanding of Indigenous Mi'kmaw history, culture and perspectives. She served as community liaison and health support during the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* and represented Atlantic Canada at the National Family and Survivors Circle, that was set up in response to the *Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

Why Denise serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: "Because I acknowledge that inclusion doesn't happen without intentional equity. Knowing our Mi'kmaq Nation still struggles with jurisdictional systemic issues with inclusion and accessibility, shared lifting and advocacy is everyone's responsibility as human beings to create transformational change."



**Louise Gillis** was a Registered Nurse for over 30 years and has been the president of the National Canadian Council of the Blind for 10 years. She has been on committees locally, nationally and internationally, where she promoted access, identified barriers on sensory, physical, and attitudinal barriers for citizens. Louise lives in Sydney.

Why Louise serves on the Board: "Through my committee work over 25 years I have gained a great understanding of many disabilities to go with my own lived experiences that I feel can bring a positive impact to the board."



**Melissa MacKenzie** is a Facilities Support Technician in the Facilities Management and Engineering Department at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC). Her background in architectural drafting combined with Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Professional Designation equips her with the tools to break barriers in the built environment. Throughout her years supervising Architectural Drafting/ Engineering Technician work placements, she has shared her knowledge in accessible and universal design. Melissa strives to accelerate accessibility within her organization and community through serving on accessibility committees including chair of NSCC's Accessibility Advisory Committee and by delivering Accessibility Foundations Training to increase awareness.

Why Melissa serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: "Serving on the board allows me to do my part to bring about change that will make a difference. I want to bring the voices of community to the table for awareness and work towards finding solutions to the problems faced by our province. When I contribute to making life better for other people, I feel a deep sense of purpose and belonging. My vision for social justice drives my work so that everyone has equal opportunity to thrive and participate in Nova Scotia".



**P. Earl Muise** is a retired school administrator who has always been involved in his community at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. He was the founding president of Club Social des Iles and founding member of the Islands and District Volunteer Fire Department. He served as president of the Saint Joseph Parish Council and chair of Nakile Home for Special Care. Earl was the chair of the Nova Scotia Retired Teachers Association and has recently been made president of the NS Community Links. He lives with his wife in the small Acadian village of Surette's Island.

Why Earl serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: "This is a way of giving back and, as one living with muscular dystrophy, I want to be an advocate for people with disabilities in Nova Scotia."



**Dr. Sarah Moore** is an associate professor in the Faculties of Health and Medicine at Dalhousie University and an affiliate scientist at IWK Health. Her research and practice focus on issues related to childhood disability and health and her work is informed by kids and families. Dr. Moore was recently appointed as a board of director of Accessibility Standards Canada and sits on the board of directors at Easter Seals Nova Scotia. She has been a parasport coach for more than two decades, and currently coaches many Easter Seals TakePART programs, including introductory wheelchair basketball and sledge hockey, adapted dance, and competitive powerchair soccer.

Why Dr. Moore serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: “The kids and families I support and coach deserve to live in a province that is accessible and inclusive, and where they feel they belong. I’ve listened to their stories of exclusion and stigma, but also optimism and hope. Kids experiencing disabilities and their families have the most incredible ideas to make our province more accessible and inclusive. I hope serving on this board will allow me to bring their ideas forward as we identify priorities to foster a more accessible Nova Scotia by 2030.”

**Shellene Sparks** is a proud African Nova Scotian living in Dartmouth. She works in the federal government in the human resources field as a manager. She has served on working groups and advisory groups in her work environment over the past seven years, each aiming to identify and remove barriers that prevent access, equity, inclusion and diversity.

Why Shellene serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board: “I am excited and feel privileged to be on this board as it strives to make Nova Scotia more accessible. For me, work to build inclusive communities and workplaces across the province is very important because I believe that by removing these barriers, we each will be more empowered and able to live our best lives at work, at home and at leisure.”



**Amy Lays** has advocated for accessible spaces as the Vice-Chair of the Miracle League of Ottawa, she has also participated in the federal government’s accessibility consultations and previously worked at the federal office for disability issues. She has worked in a variety of roles supporting children, youth and adults with disabilities in their communities. Amy works for the IWK, supporting Autistic children in Antigonish County to develop their skills.

Why Amy serves on the Accessibility Advisory Board:  
“I believe that accessible spaces are inclusive spaces. Through my work and personal experiences, I have first-hand the effects that inaccessible spaces have for people.”

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***We thank board members who completed their terms in 2023-24 for their contributions to our work.***

**Rosalind Penfound** was on the board since it was formed, as both vice-chair and chair. Her leadership contributed to developing the first policies and processes of the board, and the formation of four standard development committees.

**Marcie-Shwery-Stanley** left her role after serving two terms. A passionate woman with a disability, she served on the Minister’s Panel on Accessibility Legislation and worked on disability issues for more than 40 years.

**Anne Sinclair** served two terms with the board. The board benefitted from Anne’s input as an architect with more than 30 years of experience working on design and accessibility in the building industry.

**Lewis Pope** left the board in January 2024. Lewis contributed his advice to the board and will continue to bring accessibility principles to his work helping to redevelop long-term care facilities across the province.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of many skilled ASL - English interpreters, captioners, and technical support professionals who were integral in supporting communication at all of our board meetings.

# Our 2023–2024 Activities

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## BOARD OPERATIONS

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The Accessibility Advisory Board met eight times between April 2023 and March 2024. All but one of these meetings were held online. Summaries of our meetings can be found on the Accessibility Advisory Board website, and hyper link is [nsaccessibilityboard.ca](https://nsaccessibilityboard.ca).

In 2023–2024, we continued to review and update our work plan. The work plan is an outline of our priorities. It details meeting presentations and the topics we will discuss.

This work plan is flexible. Our priorities may change as our work moves forward. New items may be brought to meeting roundtable discussions or shared by email between meetings.

## ACCESSIBILITY RATE IN NOVA SCOTIA

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New data released in December 2023 found that Nova Scotia has a higher percentage of people with disabilities than any other province in Canada. The Canadian Survey on Disability is published every five years by Statistics Canada, and the 2022 survey is based on 2021 census data. The survey found that 37.9% of Nova Scotians aged 15 and older report having one or more disabilities. The number rose 7% since the 2016 census data.

The data provides important information on disability type and severity and is taken into consideration by the board as part of our work. [About disability in Nova Scotia | AccessibilityNovaScotia](#)

## ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

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There are barriers in Nova Scotia that can make it hard for people with disabilities to fully take part in society. [Access by Design 2030](#) is our province's strategy to guide us to become accessible. This strategy sets priorities to [prevent and remove barriers](#). It sets priorities to make our province more [inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities](#).

Among those priorities is government's commitment to have accessibility standards

approved by 2030. The Accessibility Advisory Board supports this priority by creating standard development committees. The role of the committees is to help the board give advice and recommendations about accessibility standards to the government. These standards will become the sets of rules about accessibility in Nova Scotia.

During summer of 2023, a board subcommittee conducted a review of Standard Development Committee recruitment practices and processes. They recommended changes including an improved application form and enhanced communications efforts to recruit new members.

In 2023–2024, the board had two active standard development committees:

- Employment Standard Development Committee
- Goods and Services Development Committee

Progress was made to create two other standard development committees in the areas of public transportation and information and communication. As with the board, most members of these committees are people with disabilities, and some represent impacted sectors and are experts in the standard area.

These committees

- research barriers that people with disabilities experience
- research and consider ways to remove and prevent barriers through regulation
- create draft recommendations for standard regulations
- consult with the public and Government on draft recommendations, and review this feedback
- provide recommendations to the board to finalize, approve, and submit to the Justice Minister

More information about each committee can be change to found on the [Accessibility Advisory Board's website](#).

## **Standards Development**

*Government is committed to having accessibility standards in place by 2030. Accessibility standards are regulations – or rules - that organizations must follow to prevent and remove barriers. The board creates committees to develop recommendations for each standard area. These committees include people with disabilities and other experts from impacted sectors.*

## **Built Environment Standard Development**

The built environment standard is intended to make buildings and outdoor spaces like trails, parks and beaches accessible.

The Built Environment Standard Development Committee was reactivated this year to meet with the board twice to discuss the proposed standard when it was shared for public comment in fall 2023.

The Built Environment Standard Development Committee submitted feedback to the board on the proposed standard.

## **Education Standard Development**

The education standard is intended to make the education system accessible for students with disabilities.

In June 2023, government publicly released the board's recommendations for an accessibility standard in education.

The recommendations address barriers in areas such as

- curriculum
- materials
- accessibility services
- assistive technology

The recommendations are for

- the early years (pre-primary programs, licensed child-care facilities, and family home child-care agencies)
- public and private schools from primary to grade 12
- universities and the Nova Scotia Community College
- private career colleges and language schools
- the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning

The Education Standard Development Committee did not meet in 2023–2024 as it had already made recommendations to inform the drafting of standard regulations.

In 2024, government began its review of the recommendations and the Accessibility Directorate kept the board updated on progress.

The committee's recommendations can be found on the [Education Standard Development Committee](#) section of the [Accessibility Advisory Board's website](#).

## **Employment Standard Development**

The employment standard is intended to make sure that workplaces are accessible and support people with disabilities to find, maintain and advance in meaningful employment.

The Employment Standard Development Committee met 11 times in 2023–2024. It prepared draft recommendations that were shared for public consultation in November and December 2023. Eight focus groups were held with people with disabilities, disability organizations, and employers. The committee also received feedback through surveys and written submissions, and from government departments. The board provided feedback to the committee during an engagement session and through written feedback.

The committee reviewed feedback about the draft recommendations and prepared to submit their final recommendations to the board.

The standard development committee is recommending the employment standard apply to all organizations that employ more than one person, including the Government of Nova Scotia. The recommendations address barriers in areas such as emergency preparedness, recruitment, workplace accommodations, job search, and employee retention and advancement.

## **Goods and Services Standard Development**

The Goods and Service Standard is intended to ensure that people with disabilities have equitable access to goods and services.

The terms of reference for a Goods and Services Standard Development Committee were approved by the board and minister this year. The members of the newly created committee first met in June 2023. Throughout 2023-2024, the members met 10 times as they developed their work plan, and reviewed findings of consultations on barriers, including those in African Nova Scotian and Indigenous communities, and began drafting recommendations.

## **Public Transportation Standard Development**

The public transportation standard is intended to make it easier for people with disabilities to get where they need to go.

In 2023-2024, the board began work to create a Public Transportation Standard Development Committee.

We approved the committee's terms of reference and recommended it to the minister.



Once the minister approved the terms of reference in fall 2023, we began recruiting members for the committee in December 2023. In early 2024, a board selection subcommittee began reviewing member applications for the Public Transportation Standard Development Committee.

## **Information and Communication Standard**

The Information and Communication Standard is intended to make sure people with disabilities can receive, understand and share the information they need.

In 2023-2024, the board began work to develop an Information and Communication Standard Development Committee. The committee will develop recommendations for a standard to prevent and remove barriers persons with disabilities experience accessing information and communication. This includes addressing communication barriers that exist digitally, in print or through interactions with technology or people.

The board approved the committee's terms of reference then recommended it to the minister for approval. The board began recruiting members for the committee in February 2024.

## **AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

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Awareness and Capacity Building is one of the six priorities in Access by Design 2030.

The Independent Review of the Accessibility Act recommended the board increase the awareness of our work. The board agreed that developing our own website apart from government would enable us to share with Nova Scotians more information about the work we do. In January 2024 we began the process to develop a website.

We also continued to promote the [Access Includes Everyone](#) public awareness campaign and website, now in its second year, developed by the Accessibility Directorate. The board received a presentation update on the campaign and discussed the importance of providing the public with information on how to identify and remove barriers to inclusion and access in our communities, organizations, schools, workplaces and everyday lives.

## **COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT**

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Collaboration and Support is one of the six priorities in Access by Design 2030.

In 2023–2024, the Accessibility Advisory Board met with people and groups on key topics related to accessibility and disability.

The board met with the Minister of Justice in November 2023 to share our priorities and discuss the advice we provided throughout the year. We also shared progress made to develop accessibility standards.

In November, members also received a presentation from the Office of Equity and Anti Racism on Nova Scotia's Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy released in 2023. The board was eager to support the province's efforts to be more inclusive of underrepresented communities.

The government's Executive Council Office presented to the board in July 2023 about their accessibility commitments in the Government's Accessibility Plan. We discussed ways to improve the application process for people who want to join provincial agencies, boards and commissions.

Also in July, the board invited the director of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Vulnerable Persons Registry to give us an overview of the work being done for residents who may require support during emergency situations. We learned that individuals or family members of people with disabilities can now request someone be added to the list by calling 311 so they will be checked on during emergency situations.

In May 2023, we received updates from the Department of Community Services on the Human Rights Remedy and the transformation of the Disability Support Program over the next five years as recommendations are implemented.

Four of our members met in person with the Chief Accessibility Officer for Canada, Stephanie Cadieux, to learn about her role, discuss barriers impacting people with disabilities across the country. We agreed there are many positive changes we can make together in the lives of people with disabilities through innovative solutions that will benefit everyone.

In May, we met with the Director of the School of Social Work of the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship University of British Columbia. The director gave us an overview of the history and context of medical assistance in dying in Canada, and the concerns expressed by people with a disability.

The board also met with representatives from the Rick Hansen Foundation to learn more about their organization. They shared information on their programs, public awareness campaign, research initiatives, and their Accessibility Certification Professional Training Program.

## COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

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Compliance and Enforcement is one of the six priorities in Access by Design 2030.

There must be ways to make sure the Accessibility Act and accessibility standards are followed. This is called compliance.

In November 2023, the board received an update from the Accessibility Directorate on how many prescribed public sector bodies have accessibility plans, as required by the Accessibility Act. Of the 107 organizations required to develop plans, 93 per cent had completed one, while seven per cent had not.

We also received a presentation from Halifax Regional Municipality's Accessibility Advisor on the initiatives taking place as part of the municipality's accessibility strategy.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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Monitoring and Evaluation is one of the six priorities in Access by Design 2030.

This means monitoring the impact and results of accessibility work happening in Nova Scotia.

A key area of focus for the board throughout 2023-2024 was to review the recommendations that came out of the first independent review of the Accessibility Act.

The board discussed Dr. Katie Aubrecht's report in detail over four meetings, and with support from a working group.

We discussed how it could achieve more autonomy from the Accessibility Directorate

## ***Prescribed Public Sector Bodies***

*Prescribed Public Sector Bodies (PPSBs) are organizations that, under the Accessibility Act, are required to develop accessibility plans and to have accessibility advisory committees. These include municipalities and villages, universities and the Nova Scotia Community College, regional libraries, the IWK Health Centre, NS Health and Regional Centres of Education and government agencies such as the Nova Scotia Museum and Invest Nova Scotia.*

## ***Accessibility Act Review***

*In October 2021, government appointed Dr Katie Aubrecht to conduct the first review. Her review focused on identifying any possible changes to the act, the standard development processes and the implementation of Access by Design 2030.*

*Dr Aubrecht's review was completed in April 2023 and released publicly in May 2023. As part of the review process, Dr Aubrecht consulted with persons with disabilities, board members, disability organizations and others.*

as well as the implications to switching to a co-chaired governance model.

The board agreed with the recommendation there needs to be more communication about what happens after the standards are enacted and when they get reviewed.

Through correspondence and during a meeting with the minister, members gave advice on what actions to prioritize from the report. The board recommended that the following areas should be priorities for action:

- Communications: increasing updates on progress
- Intersectionality: integrating first voice diversity
- Housing: increasing access to accessible and affordable housing

The Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities is leading the creation of a new [Quality of Life Index](#) for people with disabilities funded by the Accessibility Directorate. The board was asked to participate, and member Birgit Elssner joined the provincial advisory council for the development of this important work.

The index measures a set of social and economic indicators to measure overall wellbeing of people with disabilities to inform government on programs that will have the biggest impact on improving quality of life.

## ACCESS BY DESIGN 2030

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The board chair and executive director of the Accessibility Directorate led a discussion in July 2023 with members on the goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. They reviewed obligations and commitments from past reports, the Accessibility Act and Access by Design 2030. Part of the discussion focused on the progress made since the act was enacted in 2017 and what other jurisdictions are doing. The accessibility standards development process and timeline for standards was reviewed.

### Quality of Life Index Project

*"I feel privileged to be able to represent the Accessibility Advisory Board on such an amazing project. The opportunities of changes, that can be possible with the insight gained through the data coming out of this index are huge. The thoughts and life experiences will guide policy makers in ensuring a better quality of life for persons with disabilities. It has been fantastic to see so many agencies, perspectives and experiences come together in one project. It certainly feels like all Nova Scotian voices are represented. "*

Board member  
**Birgit Elssner**

# Looking Ahead to 2024–2025

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In 2024–2025, the Accessibility Advisory Board will help increase awareness and education as members help develop and launch our new website, so the public has a clearer picture of who we are and what we do.

We will work with the Department of Justice to fill the one vacant position on our board so that we operate with 12 members.

We will continue to work with government to help advance the built environment standard sharing our advice as it moves closer to becoming the first accessibility standard to be enacted into law. We will review the final recommendations for an employment standard and advance them to minister. We will provide feedback on the draft recommendations from the Goods and Services Standard Development Committee, and we will assist the Public Transportation and Information and Communication Standard Development Committees begin their meetings and approve their work plans.

We look forward to seeing the 2025-2028 Government of Nova Scotia Plan as it is developed and will continue to monitor the progress made in actions outlined by the [Government of Nova Scotia Response to the Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act Review Report](#).

We will do our part to increase communication and engagement to let Nova Scotians know about the goal of an accessible province and progress made toward this goal.

# Get Involved

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There are several ways you can help us build a stronger province for everyone.

## BECOME A MEMBER

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Apply to become a member of the Accessibility Advisory Board and help build an accessible Nova Scotia. To find out if there are current openings on the Board check [here](#).

## BECOME A FIRST VOICE ACCESSIBILITY EXPERT

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Are you a person with a disability and want to share your expertise in reviewing and providing input on future projects - such as resources, workshops, about accessibility? The Accessibility Directorate is creating a roster of Nova Scotians who would be interested in these opportunities. Depending on the number of projects that need to be reviewed you could participate. There is an honorarium for each project you review and provide input.

You may also contact the [Accessibility Directorate](#) at [accessibility@novascotia.ca](mailto:accessibility@novascotia.ca) if you have any questions.

Learn more about the First Voice Reviewer Opportunity by watching this video. [ASL Video with Captioning](#)

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND FEEDBACK

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Occasionally the Accessibility Advisory Board will have opportunities for input and feedback from the public on our work. These will be listed [here](#).

## CONTACT THE BOARD

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If you have any questions on any of our work, please send us an email at [accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca](mailto:accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca)





NOVA SCOTIA