

Accessibility Standards Advisory Board

**Activity Plan
April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2026**

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Chairperson's Message

Honourable Paul Pike
Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

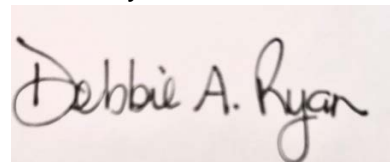
Dear Minister Pike:

On behalf of the Accessibility Standards Advisory Board (the Board), I am pleased to submit the Activity Plan, which covers the period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026.

This activity plan is prepared in accordance with the requirements for a category three entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, and was developed to support the strategic directions of the Provincial Government and Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development. The Board is committed to supporting the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's commitment to improving accessibility and inclusion in the province. This includes identifying, preventing, and removing barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating fully in society.

My signature below is on behalf of the Board and indicative of our accountability for the development of this plan and achievement of the contained objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Debbie A. Ryan" in a cursive, flowing script.

Debbie Ryan
Chairperson

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1.0 Overview

The Accessibility Standards Advisory Board (the Board) was established in June 2022, following the enactment of the **Accessibility Act** in December 2021. According to Section 9 of the Act, the Board is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities (Minister), regarding the establishment and content of accessibility standards, and the time-periods for their implementation. The Board is also responsible for making recommendations regarding measures, policies, and practices that are implemented by the Government to improve accessibility.

The current Board has eight members, who were appointed in June 2022 by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities. The appointed members have a broad range of backgrounds and expertise in inclusion and accessibility. This includes advocacy in prominent issues within the disability community and lived experiences with identifying and addressing barriers' removal and prevention.

At least one-half of the Board's members are persons with disabilities or representatives from organizations of or for persons with disabilities, and at least one member is an Indigenous person. Members are eligible to be reappointed but shall not serve for longer than two consecutive terms. All subsequent appointments of members to the Board shall be for a term of three years. As of April 1, 2023, the following individuals comprised the Board:

- Debbie Ryan, Chairperson (St. John's);
- Dr. Shawna Matthews, Vice-Chairperson (Pasadena);
- Juanita Ford (Mount Pearl);
- Jeffrey Normore (St. John's);
- Joshua Menchions (St. John's);
- Trisha Rose (Mount Pearl);
- Leslie Gilholme (Newman's Cove); and,
- Camille Rose (Come By Chance).

Board members receive remuneration and travel expenses are covered within the budget of the Disability Policy Office (DPO), a division of the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD). DPO provides secretariat support for the Board.

The Board holds at least four regular meetings each year and meets with the Minister at least once per year. Meetings are held in person at an accessible venue or via Zoom.

2.0 Mandate

The Board advises and makes recommendations to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities on:

- a) Priorities for the establishment of accessibility standards, the content of accessibility standards, and the time periods for their implementation;
- b) Measures, policies, practices, and other requirements that may be implemented by the Government to improve accessibility;
- c) Long-term accessibility objectives for furthering the purpose of the **Accessibility Act**; and
- d) Any other matter relating to accessibility on which the Minister seeks the Board's advice.

3.0 Vision

Newfoundland and Labrador will be a province that is committed to improving accessibility and inclusion for all persons, and to ensure equity, respect, and the prevention and removal of barriers impacting persons living with a disability.

4.0 Objectives

Issue One: Accessibility Recommendations

The Board is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Minister regarding proposed accessibility standards, and must consider the following when making recommendations:

- a) Content related to the accessibility standard in question, such as the activity/undertaking of the standard, and any sectors, built environments, organizations, or public bodies that relate to the standard;
- b) How, and who, should implement measures, policies, practices, or other requirements related to accessibility standards, and the time period in which these measures, policies, and practices should be implemented;
- c) When recommending time periods for implementation of accessibility standards, it is important the Board considers the nature of the barriers that the standard is trying to prevent or remove, and any technical or economic considerations associated with implementing the standard; and
- d) The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2024, 2025, and 2026. This objective will be reported in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective One:

The Accessibility Standards Advisory Board will have provided accessibility recommendations to the Minister, as required.

Indicators:

- 1) Met to discuss accessibility issues at least four times per year.
- 2) Provided accessibility recommendations to the Minister, as required.

Issue Two: Accessibility Standards

When the Minister determines that an accessibility standard will be developed, the Board will be directed to establish a standard development committee of technical

experts to assist the Board in making recommendations regarding the content and the implementation of the accessibility standard, in accordance with sections 11 and 12 of the **Accessibility Act**.

The following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2024, 2025, and 2026. This objective will be reported in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective Two:

The Accessibility Standards Advisory Board will make recommendations regarding the content and implementation of the accessibility standard, as required.

Indicators:

- 1) Upon Ministerial direction, the Board will establish a standard development committee.
- 2) Upon Ministerial direction, the Board will develop the terms of reference for Ministerial approval.