



Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board

**Annual Activity Report
2015-16**

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REFERENCE PERIOD

**This report covers the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016,
the fiscal year of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board.**

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Chairperson's Message

As Chairperson of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board, I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for 2015-16. This report is prepared in compliance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* which categorizes the board as a Category Three government entity and requires the board to submit an annual report. The board is accountable for the preparation of this report and for the results reported.

On behalf of the members of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board, I would like to re-affirm our commitment to working with all stakeholders in order to provide strategic advice to the Minister of Service NL on the application of the *Buildings Accessibility Act* and its associated regulations.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecilia Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Cecilia Carroll
Chairperson

Overview

The Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board is appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council under the authority of section 18 of the *Buildings Accessibility Act* (the “Act”). The board consists of a chairperson, representatives of persons with disabilities, one representative of the department (other than the Director of Engineering and Inspection Services), and those other members that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint. This public body, which is funded by Service NL, serves solely in an advisory capacity.

The current board membership is as follows:

1. Ms. Cecilia Carroll, Chairperson
2. Mr. Sean Kilpatrick, Vice-Chairperson
3. Mr. Jason Blair
4. Ms. Sharon Williams, Departmental Representative
5. Ms. Pauline Crann
6. Mr. Dennis Gill
7. Mr. Ed Smith
8. Ms. Sheila Keating
9. Mr. Reginald Hedges

Mandate

The mandate of the board is to report to, and advise the Minister of Service NL, on the application of the Act and its associated regulations, and on other matters related to the Act and regulations that may be assigned to the board by the Minister.

Vision

The board has adopted Service NL’s vision for this planning cycle, which is as follows:

People in Newfoundland and Labrador living and working in healthy, fair and safe environments with access to efficient and responsive programs and services.

The board supports the department’s vision by working to ensure the fair and equitable application of its mandate as outlined in the legislation (i.e. advising the Minister).

Mission

The board has adopted Service NL’s mission for this planning cycle, which is as follows:

By March 31, 2017, Service NL will have enhanced program and service delivery through improved standards and regulatory processes that promote living and working in a healthy, fair and safe environment.

The board contributes to the department’s mission by providing advice and considering matters with respect to buildings accessibility legislation and policy.

For Service NL's full mission statement, including its associated measures and indicators, please refer to Service NL's 2014-17 Strategic Plan available online at:

<http://www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/publications>

Values

In achieving its vision, the board has adopted the values of Service NL and will communicate these values to its stakeholders through the following action statements:

Integrity: Each individual engages in ethical behaviour and exercises the proper use of authority and responsibility.

Collaboration: Each individual supports others through communication and consultation with co-workers, industry partners and the public.

Accountability: Each individual accepts responsibility for their actions and is responsive to meeting public needs and delivering on departmental commitments in a timely, efficient and satisfactory manner.

Respect: Each individual accepts differences, embraces diversity and exercises a caring attitude in their encounters with others.

Excellence: Each individual demonstrates excellence in providing service to the public.

Primary Clients

Generally speaking, the board's clients are those who benefit from improvements resulting from the board's advice. The board's sole direct client is the Minister of Service NL, to whom the board provides advice. More broadly, however, the board's clients are the general public, particularly those with disabilities and those representing the interests of persons with disabilities.

Revenues and Expenditures

The Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board has no revenues. The Board is funded through the operating budget of the Government Services Branch of Service NL. The Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board is not required to submit audited financial statements.

Activities

Objective: By March 31, 2016, the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board will have fulfilled all the requirements under the *Buildings Accessibility Act* by advising on matters pertaining to accessibility in buildings, associated entrances, parking spaces, walkways and other facilities, as per its mandate.

Measure: Requirements of the Act fulfilled, as per its mandate.

Indicators:

- Meetings held, as required.
- Advice provided to Minister on the application of the Act and the regulations.
- Other activities undertaken, as assigned by the Minister.

Results Achieved:

The Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board met on three occasions during the 2015-16 fiscal year and provided advice to the Minister on the following topics:

- blue zone parking regulations
- buildings accessibility (automatic door openers, entrance elevation, wheelchair ramps)
- visual disabilities and accessibility
- hearing loss and accessibility
- keeping pace with new technologies – updating legislation
- passenger lifts vs. elevators in public buildings

No other activities were assigned by the Minister.

The Board also invited groups to deliver presentations at their meetings including the Disability Policy Office, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA-NL) in an effort to have open communications between the board and these groups which all have similar goals and objectives.

The board will report on the above objective, measure and indicators in 2016-17.

