



Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board

**Annual Activity Report
2018-19**

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REFERENCE PERIOD

**This report covers the period April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019,
the fiscal year of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board.**

Contents

Chairperson's Message	1
Overview	2
Mandate	2
Primary Clients	2
Revenues and Expenditures	2
Activities	2
Results Achieved.....	3

Chairperson's Message

As a member of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board, I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for 2018-19. 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 blue ink that reads "Dennis Gill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "G".

Dennis Gill
Board Member

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 of Service NL (other than the Director of Engineering and Inspection Services), and those other members that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint. This public body serves solely in an advisory capacity. Members of the board in 2018-19 were:

- Dennis Gill, Chairperson
- Emily Mayne
- Robert Menchenton
- Brittany Moulard
- Randy Sooley
- Rose Wilson

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.

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, 2019, the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board will have fulfilled all the requirements under the Act by advising on matters pertaining to accessibility in buildings, associated entrances, parking spaces, walkways and other facilities, 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 two occasions during 2018-19 to conduct a comprehensive review of the Act. Meetings were held on January 28-29, 2019 and March 13-14, 2019.

During the four days of deliberations, a line-by-line review of the Act was undertaken, and recommendations for changes were commenced. Several items were raised for review, including vision impairment, hearing impairment, universal design, pre-1981 builds, areas of egress, blue zones and washrooms. A definition of Accessibility was drafted.

The Minister of Service NL attended the meeting on January 29. The Director of Engineering Services and the Manager of Policy and Strategic Planning attended the meetings in March and contributed in their respective areas of expertise.

The Executive Director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind made a presentation during the March meetings on the challenges faced by persons who are blind or have sight impairment, and possible solutions. Going forward, the Board agreed to engage key stakeholders in discussions and presentations.

The review is ongoing and a report on the outcome of the review, including any recommendations, will be provided to the Minister of Service NL in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

No other activities were assigned by the Minister.

The board will report on the above objective and indicators in 2019-20.