



Digital Government and Service NL

Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board

Annual Activity Report
2022-23

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REFERENCE PERIOD

This report covers the period of April 1, 2022 through to March 31, 2023, the fiscal year of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board.

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Chairperson's Message

As Chairperson of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board (the Board), I am pleased to submit the Annual Activity Report for 2022-23. This Report is prepared in compliance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, which requires the Board to prepare a yearly report as a Category 3 Government entity. The Board is accountable for the preparation of this Report and for the results reported.

On behalf of the members of the Board, I want to reaffirm our commitment to working with all stakeholders to provide strategic advice to the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL on the application of the **Buildings Accessibility Act** and its associated regulations.

Yours truly,



Dennis Gill

Chair

Overview

The 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 Digital Government and Service NL (other than the Director of Engineering and Inspection Services), and those other members whom the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint. This public body, which is funded by Digital Government and Service NL (DGSNL), serves solely in an advisory capacity.

Members of the Board in 2022-23 were:

- Dennis Gill, Chairperson
- Brittany Moulard, Vice-Chairperson
- Emily Fouchard
- Robert Menchenton
- Randy Sooley
- Rose Wilson
- Gail Boland, Assistant Deputy Minister, DGSNL

Vision

The Board works to ensure the fair and equitable application of its mandate as outlined in legislation.

Mandate

The mandate of the Board is to report to and advise the Minister of DGSNL 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.

Highlights and Partnerships

The Board engages with various groups as deemed pertinent. Actions and recommendations of the Board benefit the general public, particularly those with

disabilities and those representing the interests of persons with disabilities.

Report on Performance

This Report outlines the Board's activities from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, including the objectives achieved as outlined in the 2020-23 Activity Plan.

Objective:

By March 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board will have advised the responsible Minister on matters pertaining to accessibility in buildings, associated entrances, parking spaces, grounds, 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:

- During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Board met on two occasions to continue its work on the Act.
- On June 21-22, 2022, the Board met to review a summary of what was heard during the public consultations ([What We Heard \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)), begin its review of the **Buildings Accessibility Regulations**, and continue its discussion about enforcement and awareness of building accessibility requirements.
- On January 25-26, 2023, the Board met to continue its review of the Buildings Accessibility Regulations and met with representatives from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation, as well as Heritage NL, to discuss implications to the heritage status of buildings renovated for accessibility purposes.

The Board also met with representatives from Municipalities NL to discuss challenges for municipalities to improve building accessibility.

Opportunities and Challenges

Rising construction costs have resulted in an increase in pricing for materials like lumber, steel, concrete, and oriented strand boards, beginning during the pandemic and continuing to this day. In addition, the higher interest rates mean that overall construction projects will become more expensive, particularly creating challenges for building owners to improve accessibility. The Board will therefore be challenged to advise the Minister accordingly, to support enhanced accessibility throughout the Province.

With the proclamation of the new **Accessibility Act**, the Board has the opportunity to further enhance accessibility outcomes in the built environment.

Financial Statements

The Board is not required to submit audited financial statements.



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