



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

UPDATE ON *ACCESSIBILITY ACT*

TO: Mayors/Wardens, Councillors, All Units

CC: Chief Administrative Officers/Clerk-Treasurers, All Units

We've been asked by the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate to send this update to our Members:

Following the adoption of Wolfville's Accessibility Plan in February, earlier this month, the Accessibility Advisory Committee hosted a public launch of the document at the Wolfville Farmers' Market. Wolfville: Access By Design can be found on [Wolfville's website](#), and [here](#) is a link to an article on the launch and the plan itself.

Wolfville: Access By Design is the first comprehensive municipal accessibility plan in Atlantic Canada. The plan is the culmination of a community driven effort that involved spirited discussions amongst members of Wolfville's Accessibility Advisory Committee, and a well attended Town Hall meeting.

At the NSFM's Spring Workshop, the Town of Wolfville received a Rick Hansen Difference Maker Award for their outstanding work in preparing this plan. Congratulations as well to the Municipality of the County of Inverness and Halifax Regional Municipality for also receiving Rick Hansen Difference Maker Awards for accessibility initiatives in their communities. Later this month, the Town of Wolfville will also be awarded the Mel Hebb Community Action Award for the adoption of their accessibility plan.

Together with The Accessibility Planning Toolkit for Municipalities, Wolfville: Access By Design should be viewed as a resource for municipalities to help develop accessibility plans of your own. The Accessibility Planning Toolkit is nearing completion, and will be released publicly once municipalities are prescribed under the Accessibility Act.

As a reminder, once prescribed under the Act, municipalities must develop an accessibility plan and establish an accessibility advisory committee within one year. While timing is not yet confirmed, municipalities will likely be prescribed in fall 2019 (meaning that accessibility plans must be in place by fall 2020), with an announcement to take place over the next couple of months. Municipalities will continue to be informed as this process unfolds.

For further information on what the Accessibility Act means for your municipality, please contact Joshua Bates, Senior Policy Analyst in the Accessibility Directorate at 902-424-5311 or Joshua.Bates@novascotia.ca

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