



## Accessibility Directorate updates – July 2024

The Accessibility Directorate is pleased to share the fourth “Breaking Barriers” email update in 2024. The purpose is to share information on accessibility-related activities that are underway or coming up at the Accessibility Directorate, Government of Nova Scotia and other related areas.

- 1. Public Transportation Standard Development Committee Membership:** Membership of the Public Transportation Standard Development Committee (SDC) was announced on Friday, July 5. The committee has 22 members representing a diversity of people with disabilities and sectors that will likely be impacted by a public transportation standard. The SDC will help the Accessibility Advisory Board make recommendations to the Minister of Justice on creating and implementing an accessibility standard in public transportation and transportation infrastructure. The standard will address accessibility barriers in conventional and specialized public transportation, such as buses, ferries, rural transit providers, taxis, and public-school transportation. The SDC membership list is available on the [Accessibility Directorate website](#).
- 2. Changes to Prescribed Public Sector Bodies:** Build Nova Scotia, Invest Nova Scotia were added to the list of prescribed public sector bodies, replacing previously named Crown corporations. They are prescribed as of April 1, 2022 (accessibility committees and plans required by April 1, 2023). The Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency was also prescribed, as of April 1, 2025 (accessibility committees and plans required by April 1, 2026). These changes were made through an amendment to the Accessibility Act General Regulations dated July 2, 2024.
- 3. Updating Your Accessibility Plan toolkit:** A new toolkit to support prescribed public sector bodies to update their accessibility plans will be distributed this month. The toolkit provides clear information on what PPSBs must do to meet their obligations under the Accessibility Act and also provides a series of optional steps to help PPSBs in the process of updating their plans. Each PPSB may choose to follow one, several or none of the steps – depending on the unique needs of their organization.
- 4. Register for Accessibility Foundations Virtual Workshops:** Space is available for the upcoming Accessibility Foundations training workshops. This introductory workshop provides the basics on

accessibility, disabilities, barriers to accessibility and how to address them. Invite your staff or volunteers to register for any one of these dates:

1. [Register for Tuesday, August 13](#) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  2. [Register for Thursday, September 19](#) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
5. **Seeking input on development of new self-led accessibility resources:** The Accessibility Directorate is seeking representatives from prescribed public sector bodies to participate in a virtual focus group to help us develop new self-led accessibility resources to help you meet your legislative obligations. In the survey conducted in January 2024, we learned that PPSBs would prefer self-led learning options and are interested in topics such as engaging with people with disabilities, organizing accessible meetings and events, and digital accessibility. We are seeking your input on specific topics and learning methods most relevant to you. If you are interested in participating in this focus group, to be scheduled in early August, please contact Laura Beth MacPherson at [LauraBeth.MacPherson@novascotia.ca](mailto:LauraBeth.MacPherson@novascotia.ca).
6. **Seeking input on Access Awareness Week 2024:** The Accessibility Directorate is seeking your feedback to help us plan for Access Awareness Week 2025. We thank all organizations that shared information, participated in, or hosted events during Access Awareness Week. Please [complete this survey](#) by July 15.
7. **Register for 360 Accessibility: From Audits to Impact Gathering:** This free one-day event will highlight accessibility audit and planning tools as well as intersectional perspectives. Participants can attend in person in Truro/Millbrook area or virtually through Zoom. This is hosted by Sea Change CoLab through the Accessibility Confident Employers project. [Registration required](#).
1. Learn more about other free training sessions on the [Accessibility Confident Employers website](#).
  2. Sea Change CoLab also recently launched a [Resource Hub](#).
8. **Provide your input on the 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan:** The Nova Scotia Office of Equity and Anti-Racism is seeking your input on the development of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan, part of the Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy released in July 2023. Virtual engagement sessions are scheduled for July 14 and 24, and there is also a public survey. Register for the virtual engagement sessions or provide your input through the survey on the [2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan Engagement website](#).
9. **Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion 2024:** Videos and transcripts of all sessions are now available on the [Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion website](#), to July 31, 2024. Check out the keynote speaker, Prasanna Ranganathan, or the panels showcasing progress toward inclusively built environments or on supporting an inclusive labour market, or any of the other sessions!
10. **Research Funding Opportunity:** Accessibility Standards Canada is seeking expressions of interest for accessibility research projects in the 7 priority areas identified in the Accessible Canada Act, as well as the following priority areas:
1. Effect of climate change on people with disabilities.
  2. Impact of legal capacity on access to federal or federally regulated programs and services.
  3. Office furniture and its design.
  4. Plain language writing
  5. Travel experience at the federal level.
- Expressions of interest must be submitted by August 16, 2024 at 3 p.m. (EDT). More information is available on the [Accessibility Standards Canada website](#).

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this email, please contact [accessibility@novascotia.ca](mailto:accessibility@novascotia.ca).

**Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate**

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**Access includes everyone**

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