

Independent Community Meeting Individual Ideas



Individual Priorities and Perspectives

TOPIC 1

Initial Reflections

What's Important to You

Initial Reflections

Thinking About Accessibility Legislation for British Columbia

What's Important to You

❓ Please describe your experiences with accessibility and inclusion.

❓ Thinking about your personal experiences what is most important to you about accessibility and inclusion in B.C.?

❓ If there is one thing you hope the accessibility legislation will accomplish what would it be?

TOPIC 2

**Proposed Approach, Scope,
Definitions, Purpose and Principles**

PROPOSED MODEL

Proposed Model

Model for Legislation

Model for Legislation

The Government of British Columbia envisions a broad alignment between federal and provincial accessibility legislation. In looking at different approaches the goal is to develop clear objectives regarding accessibility and inclusion in B.C. in order to provide people with disabilities, businesses, and members of the community greater clarity about how the legislation works and what to expect.

As government moves forward on the development of the legislation, consideration will be given to the authority and tools necessary to achieve the objectives. This will include the development of accessibility standards and regulations in conjunction with persons with disabilities, experts and other stakeholders.

Proposed Model

? What do you think about the suggested model for the legislation?

? Do you have specific ideas for what you would like to see included in the legislation?

? Are there specific groups or stakeholders that need to be at the table?

SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Scope

Definitions

The Government of British Columbia is committed to accessibility legislation that is inclusive of all persons with disabilities and would support the adoption of a broad and inclusive definition of disability consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the *Accessible Canada Act*.

Accessible Canada Act

Disability is defined as any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment—or a functional limitation—whether permanent, temporary, or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (U.N.C.R.P.D.)

Disability is described as an evolving concept which results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Scope

? What do you think about the suggested scope and definition for the legislation?

? Do you have other ideas about the approach that should be taken?

PURPOSE

Purpose

Accessibility legislation for B.C. could seek to achieve the following purposes:

1. **To support** Canada’s ratification of the UNCRPD by promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and by promoting respect for their inherent dignity.
2. **To identify**, remove, and prevent barriers encountered by people with disabilities in their daily lives through the development, implementation, and enforcement of accessibility standards.
3. **To allow** persons with disabilities and other impacted stakeholders in the public and private sectors to work collaboratively towards the timely development of accessibility standards.
4. **To ensure** there are adequate mechanisms in place to track progress on accessibility.
5. **To promote** compatibility with the *Accessible Canada Act* and between federal and provincial accessibility standards.

Purpose

Please review the purpose statements listed below and place a dot beside the three (3) purpose statements that you believe are most important in terms of the legislation to be developed

	Individual Ranking
<p>❓ TO SUPPORT Canada’s ratification of the UNCRPD by promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and by promoting respect for their inherent dignity.</p>	
<p>❓ TO IDENTIFY, remove, and prevent barriers encountered by people with disabilities in their daily lives through the development, implementation, and enforcement of accessibility standards.</p>	
<p>❓ TO ALLOW persons with disabilities and other impacted stakeholders in the public and private sectors to work collaboratively towards the timely development of accessibility standards.</p>	
<p>❓ TO ENSURE there are adequate mechanisms in place to track progress on accessibility.</p>	
<p>❓ TO PROMOTE compatibility with the <i>Accessible Canada Act</i> and between federal and provincial accessibility standards.</p>	

PRINCIPLES

Principles

INCLUSION: All British Columbians, including persons with disabilities, should be able to participate fully and equally in their communities.

ADAPTABILITY: Accessibility legislation should reflect that disability and accessibility are evolving concepts that change as services, technology, and attitudes change.

Ensuring that B.C. is an inclusive and accessible province will require ongoing commitment from government in partnership with the disability community and other stakeholders.

DIVERSITY: Every person is unique. People with disabilities are individuals with varied backgrounds. Individual characteristics including race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and lived experience greatly inform the experiences of individuals. Accessibility legislation should acknowledge the principle of intersectionality and the diversity within the disability community.

COLLABORATION Promoting accessible communities is a shared responsibility and everyone has a role to play.

Legislation should create opportunities for government, community, and business to work together to promote access and inclusion.

SELF-DETERMINATION: Accessibility legislation should seek to empower people with disabilities to make their own choices and pursue the lives they wish to live.

Principles

Please review the principle statements listed below and place a dot beside the three (3) principle statements that you believe are most important in terms of the legislation to be developed.

	Individual Ranking
<p>? INCLUSION All British Columbians, including persons with disabilities, should be able to participate fully and equally in their communities</p>	
<p>? ADAPTABILITY Accessibility legislation should reflect that disability and accessibility are evolving concepts that change as services, technology, and attitudes change. Ensuring that B.C. is an inclusive and accessible province will require ongoing commitment from government in partnership with the disability community and other stakeholders.</p>	
<p>? DIVERSITY Every person is unique. People with disabilities are individuals with varied backgrounds. Individual characteristics including race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and lived experience greatly inform the experiences of individuals. Accessibility legislation should acknowledge the principle of intersectionality and the diversity within the disability community.</p>	
<p>? COLLABORATION Promoting accessible communities is a shared responsibility and everyone has a role to play. Legislation should create opportunities for government, community, and business to work together to promote access and inclusion.</p>	
<p>? SELF-DETERMINATION Accessibility legislation should seek to empower people with disabilities to make their own choices and pursue the lives they wish to live.</p>	

TOPIC 3

Accessibility Standards— Areas of Focus

Areas of Focus

Accessibility Standards

The Government of British Columbia envisions accessibility legislation that would support the development, implementation and enforcement of accessibility standards. These standards could cover a variety of areas including:

- Service Delivery
- Employment
- The Built Environment
- Information and Communication
- Transportation

There might be other reasons as well. This section explores more fully the types of standards that are needed and that should be considered in the development of accessibility legislation for B.C. This section also includes space for participants to share their stories and experiences as well as an opportunity for participants to identify the areas of focus that they believe are most important in terms of the development of accessibility legislation for British Columbia

Accessibility Standards

Take a few minutes to talk about the different service areas and the types of service improvements or enhancements that are needed:

? SERVICE DELIVERY (e.g. health services, customer services, education)
? EMPLOYMENT (e.g. hiring and retention)
? THE PHYSICAL/BUILT ENVIRONMENT (e.g. entranceways, parks, sidewalks, parking)
? INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION (websites, print material, emergency information)
? TRANSPORTATION (e.g. buses, ferries, taxis)
? OTHER AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

Accessibility Standards



Based on your experience, are there other service areas or standards that should be considered?

❓ OTHER AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

❓ OTHER AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

❓ OTHER AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

Accessibility Standards

Based on your experience, how would you rank these areas in terms of importance? Which of the different areas and services standards rank within your “top 3” priorities...?

	Ranking
<p>? SERVICE DELIVERY (e.g. health services, customer services, education)</p>	
<p>? EMPLOYMENT (e.g. hiring and retention)</p>	
<p>? THE PHYSICAL/BUILT ENVIRONMENT (e.g. entranceways, parks, sidewalks, parking)</p>	
<p>? INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION (websites, print material, emergency information)</p>	
<p>? TRANSPORTATION (e.g. buses, ferries, taxis)</p>	
<p>? OTHER AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION _____ _____</p>	

Accessibility Standards

Please indicate the importance of improvements or the need for standards in the different areas, and the difference this would make in your life, or in the lives of those close to you.

	Very Important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Not at all important
❓ SERVICE DELIVERY					
❓ EMPLOYMENT					
❓ THE PHYSICAL/BUILT ENVIRONMENT					
❓ INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION					
❓ TRANSPORTATION					

TOPIC 4

Implementation Details Measures to Ensure Compliance

Governance

What is Governance?

Governance refers to the entities, such as people or organizations, who would ensure effective implementation, compliance, and enforcement of accessibility legislation and standards.

An effective governance structure would be essential to the success of accessibility legislation and standards. For example, accessibility legislation could create the following responsibilities:

Accessibility Directorate: responsible to oversee progress and provide information and tools to help organizations comply with legislation and standards.

Standards Development Board: responsible for the development and revision of accessibility standards. The Standards Development Board could include significant representation of persons with disabilities and the discretion to create technical committees comprised of persons with disabilities, experts, and other stakeholders, or to develop standards with the Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization (CASDO) or a similar entity.

Accessibility Commissioner: responsible for ensuring compliance and enforcement with accessibility legislation and reporting compliance and enforcement outcomes.

Governance Models

Governance

❓ What do you think about the different models or approaches to governance?

❓ Do you have ideas about other approaches to governance that you feel should be considered?

Incentives, Compliance, Enforcement

Which mix of measures do you feel will be most beneficial in terms of helping to promote and support accessibility and inclusion in B.C.? Should the focus be more incentive based or is there the need for penalties to ensure compliance? Rank the measures you feel will have the greatest impact.

	Ranking
① Accessibility plans and progress reports	
② Information and resources to highlight leading practices adopted elsewhere	
③ Recognition and awards for communities demonstrating exemplary practices	
④ Funding programs and financial incentives to improve accessibility	
⑤ Financial incentives for accessibility leaders	
⑥ Requirements for accessibility plans and progress reports	
⑦ New channels for feedback for employees, customers and members of the public	
⑧ Community hubs offering resources, tools, training and support	
⑨ Publications and information about known barriers to accessibility	
⑩ Mandatory standards	
⑪ Voluntary standards	
⑫ Accessibility inspections	
⑬ Mediation	
⑭ Financial penalties for non-compliance	
⑮ Legislative reviews and public reporting	

TOPIC 5

Creating Cultural Change

Looking Beyond Legislation— Seeking Cultural Change

Breaking Down Barriers

There are more than 926,100 British Columbians over the age of 15 with some form of disability. This represents 24.7% of the population. As the population ages, the number of people with disabilities and the severity of their disabilities are likely to increase.

- ❓ **Reflecting on the conversation today, do you have suggestions around other actions or initiatives that should be considered and that could better promote and support a cultural of true accessibility and inclusion?**

- ❓ **Are there leading practices or examples you know from other jurisdictions or from your own experience that should be considered in the B.C. context?**

Final Reflections



Other Ways to Participate

The opportunity to provide feedback on accessibility legislation will be open from **September 16 to November 29, 2019 at 4 p.m.**

Ways to Participate Include:

- Completing the online questionnaire
- Registering for 1 of 10 in-person community meetings
- Attending the virtual town hall on November 20th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Sending your comments by email to engageaccessibility@gov.bc.ca
- Providing comments by telephone at 844-878-0640 (toll-free)
- Applying for resources to support independent community conversations

For more information and to register for either an in-person session or for the virtual town hall, please visit: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/accessibility>

Ways to Stay Engaged



? Are you interested in staying engaged and remaining part of the conversation?

Name:

Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Email:

? Is there other communication or information that you require to be fully and meaningfully engaged in this process?

? Do you have any final thoughts or feedback to share?
