

Village of Lawrencetown Accessibility Plan



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Introduction

In 2017 Nova Scotia became the third province to pass accessibility legislation. The Nova Scotia Accessibility Act recognizes accessibility as a human right and sets a goal to make Nova Scotia an accessible province by 2030. The purpose of the Act is to prevent and remove barriers that restrict people with disabilities from fully participating in society.

The Act also enables the government to develop standards for accessibility. Provincial accessibility standards will be developed for the following: goods and services; information and communication; transportation; employment; the built environment; and education.

The Act requires public bodies, such as villages, towns and municipalities, to form an Accessibility Advisory Committee and to create an Accessibility Plan.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is required to engage with the community, draft the Accessibility Plan, implement the plan, and update the plan every three years.

This Accessibility Plan reflects the commitment of the Lawrencetown Village Commission to persons with disabilities by providing equal opportunity and improved access to community facilities.

Definitions

Accessibility Act

The provincial law enacted to achieve accessibility by preventing and removing barriers for people with disabilities. The law defines the role and responsibilities of the Accessibility Directorate and the Accessibility Advisory Board, and addresses standards, compliance, and enforcement.

Accessibility Advisory Committee

A volunteer committee established by a municipality to advise municipal council about identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives, and facilities. The committee plays a pivotal role in helping the municipality become a barrier-free community that complies with the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act. At least one half of the members of the advisory committee must have a disability or represent an organization that represents people with disabilities.

Accessibility Coordinator

A person appointed to support the work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee in developing and implementing the Accessibility Plan.

Accessibility Directorate

The provincial body that is responsible for implementing and administering the Accessibility Act, supporting accessibility initiatives and advancing broader disability related issues.

Barrier

Anything that hinders or challenges the full and effective participation in society of persons with disabilities, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy, or a practice.

Disability

A physical, mental, intellectual, learning or sensory impairment, including an episodic disability that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders an individual's full and effective participation in society.

Equitable/Equity

A commitment to fairness. Equitable access is different from equal access. Equality means everybody is treated the same. Equity means everybody is treated fairly, based on their needs and abilities.

Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan

A multi-year plan setting specific priorities and commitments for achieving accessibility within the Government of Nova Scotia. The first plan was published in 2018 and covers the years 2018-2021.

Plain Language

Clear, conversational communication that makes sense to the intended audience. The goal of plain language is to communicate so clearly that the intended audience can easily find what they need, understand what they find, and use the information.

Prescribed

Means prescribed in the Accessibility Act General Regulations. The Accessibility Act enables the government to use the regulations to identify which organizations must comply with certain requirements. These requirements include forming an Accessibility Advisory Committee and developing an Accessibility Plan. The use of the word prescribed in legislation is intended to give wide authority for regulations to be made that set down a specific rule or direction.

Areas of Focus

The Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan identified five areas of focus for accessibility. These are as follows: Transportation; Goods and Services; Built Environment; Information and Communications; and Employment. We The Village Commission of Lawrencetown will work towards equitable access in each of these areas of focus to help identify, prevent, and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities. We will meet the standards as set out by the Province of Nova Scotia for accessibility in each of these areas. Our focus will be on the infrastructure owned and managed by our Village Commission.

TRANSPORTATION

Our Commitment

The Village Commission of Lawrencetown is committed to ensuring that residents & visitors with disabilities have equitable access to the transportation that is provided in our community.

Overview

Kings County Transit runs on a two-hour loop between Bridgetown & Greenwood. Operating hours are Monday-Friday 7AM-5PM and Saturday 9AM-5PM.

Achievements

- We ensure that snow removal at our Village owned parking areas is prioritized.
- We ensure that snow removal & sanding/salting of our Village owned sidewalks is prioritized.

Barriers

- Crosswalks have no lighting or auditory signals.
- Sidewalk cut outs need truncated domes.

Actions

- Seek grant opportunities available to install crosswalk lighting and truncated domes.

GOODS & SERVICES

Our Commitment

We are committed to ensuring that residents and visitors with disabilities have equitable access to the goods & services provided by the Village Commission of Lawrencetown

Overview

The Village delivers water & sewer services to the residents of Lawrencetown. We are also responsible for maintaining the sidewalks and overall maintenance of Village owned areas.

Achievements

- The Village office was made barrier free during renovations.

Barriers

- No staff members are trained in alternative communication methods, such as ASL.

Actions

- Look into ASL training.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our Commitment

We are committed to ensuring that residents & visitors with disabilities have equitable access to our buildings and outdoor spaces.

Overview

The Village owns a multi-purpose building (Village Office, pharmacy, clinic, other health professionals) as well as the community hall & canoe/kayak launch.

Achievements

- The Village office, medical center and pharmacy are all barrier free.
- Barriers
- Boat launch is not accessible.
- Sidewalk markings could be improved.

Actions

- Investigate a railing option for the boat launch as well as improving signage
- Paint clearer sidewalk markings

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Our Commitment

We are committed to ensuring that residents & visitors with disabilities are able to equitably access information and communications provided by the Lawrencetown Village Commission.

Overview

The Village of Lawrencetown delivers information to the public in many ways, including monthly Village meetings which are open to the public, the Village website & facebook page.

Achievements

- Village Commission meetings are held at the library which is accessible.

Barriers

- Village signage
- Auditory during the AGM

Actions

- Create a Village Map
- Investigate a way to improve sound projection during the AGM

EMPLOYMENT

Our Commitment

We are committed to providing barrier free employment

Overview

The Village employs three full-time employees. There are five elected representatives that make up the Village Commission. The Commission may appoint other members of the public to serve on committees.

Achievements

- Barrier free workplace
- Multiple platforms to advertise & apply for jobs

Barriers

- Outdated policies

Actions

- Update existing HR policies to include language which supports a culture of inclusion.
- Training for Commission & staff on equity & inclusion

CONSULTATIONS

Surveys were distributed by mail and in flyer packages, of the over 350 surveys sent only 15 responses were received.

Do you identify as having a disability, or disabilities?

Yes, I identify as having a disability or disabilities.	8
No, I don't identify as having a disability or disabilities.	7
I prefer not to say	0

What types of disability, or disabilities, do you have? Please check all that apply

Mental Health	1
Cognitive or Neurodiverse (Neurological, Learning, Intellectual)	0
Physical (Mobility, Pain, Flexibility)	5
Visual	1
Hearing	5
Speech or Communication	0
I prefer not to say	0
Other disabilities (Please List)	1

If you have a disability or disabilities, do you feel the Village of Lawrencetown is accessible to you?

Not accessible	0
Somewhat accessible	3
Fully accessible	5

If you do not have a disability, how accessible do you feel the Village of Lawrencetown is for those who have a disability?

Not accessible	0
Somewhat accessible	4
Fully accessible	3

What areas of the Village do you feel are not accessible, please indicate below.

Village Library

Not accessible	0
Somewhat accessible	2
Fully accessible	11

Village Community Hall

Not accessible	1
Somewhat accessible	2
Fully accessible	8

Village Health Centre

Not accessible	0
Somewhat accessible	1
Fully accessible	12

Village Canoe Launch

Not accessible	1
Somewhat accessible	3
Fully accessible	6

Village Sidewalks/Crosswalks

Not accessible	1
Somewhat accessible	6
Fully accessible	6

Village Street Lighting

Not accessible	0
Somewhat accessible	3
Fully accessible	12

If there are other areas you think we should know about, please list them here.

- Sidewalks need repair, hidden driveway caution signs.

Is there anything further concerning accessibility in the Village of Lawrencetown of which you feel the Committee should be aware?

- Request for additional bus shelter
- Additional crosswalks
- ATM machine

Committee Members

Accessibility Coordinator:

Melissa Roscoe, Clerk, Village of Lawrencetown

Members: Elected Officials:

Brian Reid, Commission Chair, Village of Lawrencetown

Jane Baskwill, Commission Vice Chair, Village of Lawrencetown

Laura McLarnon, Commissioner, Village of Lawrencetown

Vernon Gaudet, Commissioner, Village of Lawrencetown

Carleton Road Industries Association:

Mackenzie Akin- Executive Director