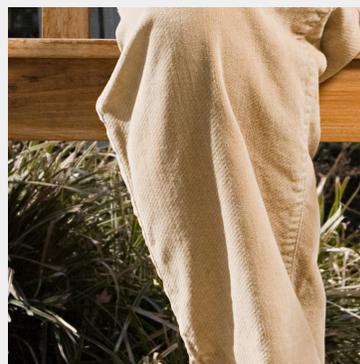
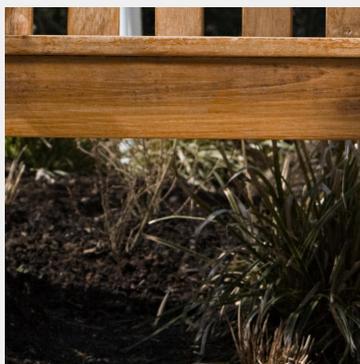
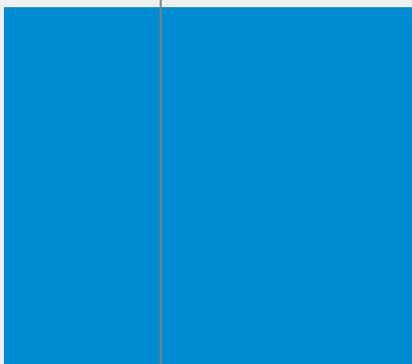
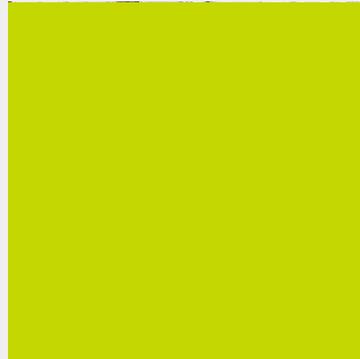


2025-2028

# Accessibility Plan

Removing barriers and  
building a more inclusive  
community for all.

November 24, 2025



# Chair's Message

On behalf of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, I am pleased to present the 2025-2028 Accessibility Plan for the Municipality of Barrington.

Since the adoption of our first plan, we have made meaningful strides toward creating a more inclusive and accessible community for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. From improvements to our built environment and recreation spaces, to supporting accessible transportation and enhancing municipal facilities, we are proud of the progress achieved so far.

This updated plan builds on that progress. It highlights what we have accomplished together and the important work that still lies ahead to remove barriers and ensure that everyone can participate fully in community life. We continue to be guided by the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity.

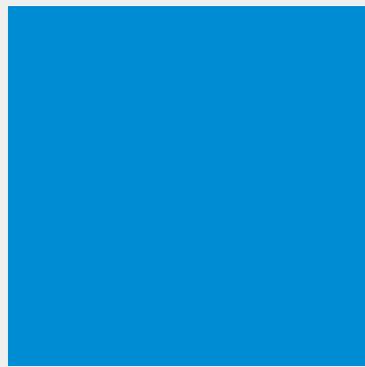
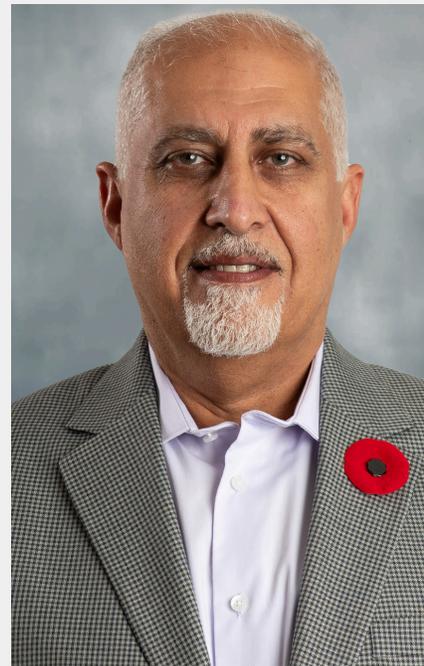
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for their ongoing dedication, and to the residents and community partners who shared their experiences and ideas throughout this update process.

Our committee remains committed to listening, learning, and working alongside Council, municipal staff, community organizations, and citizens. Building an accessible community is an ongoing effort—one that benefits us all.

We invite you to review this plan and continue sharing your feedback as we move forward together toward a more inclusive Barrington. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

**George El-Jakl**

Chair

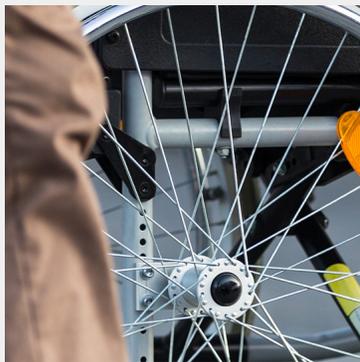
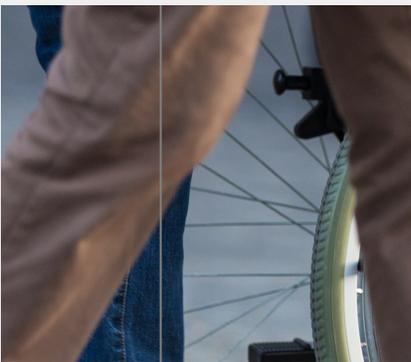


# Executive Summary

The 2025–2028 Accessibility Plan reflects our ongoing commitment to identifying, preventing, and removing barriers so that all residents and visitors—regardless of age or ability—can fully participate in community life. Building on the 2022–2025 plan, this updated version includes input from our Accessibility Advisory Committee and the public, which highlighted both the progress made and the barriers that still exist across our community.

Respondents noted several improvements, including accessible beach mats at Stoney Island Beach, upgrades to municipal facilities, and increased awareness of accessibility. However, key barriers remain—such as uneven or missing sidewalks, limited transportation options, and the need for clearer communication and more inclusive recreation and employment opportunities.

This plan follows the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity, focusing on five key areas: goods and services, information and communications, transportation, employment, and the built environment. The Municipality will continue to work with residents and partners to make Barrington a more inclusive and accessible community.



Information  
Communication



Goods  
Services



# Introduction

Public engagement is an essential part of updating the Municipality’s Accessibility Plan. The insights and experiences shared by residents, community organizations, and individuals with disabilities help ensure that the plan reflects real needs and priorities. As part of this update, the Municipality gathered input through ongoing discussions with the Accessibility Advisory Committee, feedback received from the public, and review of accessibility concerns reported over the past several years. These conversations provided valuable guidance on what is working well and where barriers remain. Going forward, the Municipality will continue to encourage open communication and participation from the public, recognizing that accessibility improvements are most effective when developed in partnership with the community.

The following sections of this plan outline the Municipality’s progress and future goals in each of the five key areas of focus: Goods and Services, Information and Communications, Transportation, Employment, and the Built Environment. Each section begins by highlighting what has already been accomplished to make services and spaces more accessible, followed by identified priorities and actions to further reduce barriers. Together, these areas form the foundation of the Municipality’s commitment to creating an inclusive community where everyone has equitable access to programs, services, and opportunities.

**37.9%**

Nova Scotians aged 15 and older report having one or more disabilities.



# Goods & Services

Ensuring that all residents can access and use municipal goods and services is a key priority of this plan. This area of focus aims to identify and remove barriers that may prevent people with disabilities from fully participating in community programs, events, and services. By providing accessible customer service, offering alternative formats or supports when needed, and designing programs with inclusion in mind, the municipality demonstrates its commitment to serving all residents equally and respectfully.

## **Vision & Commitment**

Ensure residents and visitors of all ages and abilities have equal access to all municipal goods and services.

## **What We Have Accomplished**

- Sidewalks in Barrington Passage and Woods Harbour are accessible.
- Accessible boardwalks at Island View Park and McGray Avenue.
- Recreation Department provides accessible equipment like sledges and hippocamps.
- Customer service counters in the Administrative Centre renovated to be wheelchair accessible.
- New chair lift for the municipal swimming pool.

## **What We Still Want To Do**

- Increase accessible entryways to beaches and parks, including extended beach mats at Stoney Island Beach.
- Promote accessibility awareness, including quiet shopping hours and ASL workshops.
- Ensure automatic door buttons at public facilities and invest in maintenance of accessibility features.
- Purchase additional accessible recreation equipment.
- Consult with CNIB, Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians, and trail organizations.
- Provide customer service training on accessibility and inclusion.
- Designate resources for alternative communications (like ASL or captioning) where feasible.
- Continue to promote disability-related programs and ensure parks are usable by all.

# Information & Communications

Accessible information and communication are essential to keeping all residents informed and engaged. This focus area ensures that municipal information—whether shared online, in print, or in person—is presented in clear, inclusive, and easy-to-understand ways. By following accessibility standards and offering alternative formats or communication supports, the municipality can make sure that everyone has the opportunity to access important updates, participate in decision-making, and stay connected to their community.

## Vision & Commitment

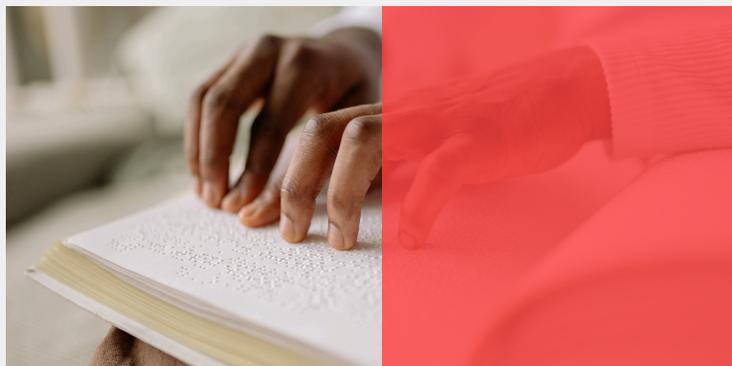
Provide municipal information in a way that is timely, clear, and accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

## What We Have Accomplished

- Agendas and minutes available on our website.
- Committee of the Whole and Council meetings broadcast on Eastlink and now livestreamed on our website.
- Social media posts and municipal forms are generally accessible.
- Large print and braille available on request.

## What We Still Want To Do

- Improve website navigation and accessibility, ensuring information is clear, accurate, and in plain language.
- Continue staff training on inclusive communication practices.
- Explore options for ASL interpretation at public meetings.
- Install more braille signage at all municipal facilities.
- Reach out to disability organizations for guidance on improving communications.



# Transportation

Accessible transportation plays a vital role in helping residents participate fully in community life. This area of focus recognizes that reliable, safe, and barrier-free transportation options are necessary for people with disabilities to access employment, education, healthcare, and recreation. The municipality will continue to work with transportation providers and community partners to identify and address accessibility challenges, ensuring that travel within the community is equitable and inclusive for all.

## **Vision & Commitment**

Work with partners to ensure transportation services are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

## **What We Have Accomplished**

- Continued financial support to Sou'West Nova Transit Association for operations and fare reductions.
- Snow and Ice Clearing By-law ensures timely clearing of sidewalks and parking lots.
- Increased the number of accessible parking spaces at municipal facilities.

## **What We Still Want To Do**

- Improve sidewalk and crosswalk accessibility throughout Barrington Passage.
- Advocate for safe routes for scooters, e-bikes, and pedestrians between communities.
- Explore supporting taxi or on-demand services that improve accessibility.
- Provide more accessible parking spaces at municipal facilities.
- Maintain accessible parking enforcement and awareness.
- Look at partnerships with employers to support employee transportation needs, especially for low-income earners and persons with disabilities.
- Assess transportation barriers for those with visual impairments.
- Continue discussions with Sou'West Nova Transit to explore service enhancements.

# Employment

Accessibility in employment ensures that the municipality is an inclusive workplace that welcomes and supports employees of all abilities. This focus area emphasizes equitable hiring practices, accessibility in the workplace, and a commitment to providing accommodations where needed. By fostering an inclusive and respectful work environment, the municipality can attract and retain a diverse workforce that reflects the community it serves.

## **Vision & Commitment**

Make employment with the Municipality accessible and remove barriers for people of all ages and abilities.

## **What We Have Accomplished**

- Renovated municipal offices are accessible with barrier-free entrances, washrooms, and meeting spaces.
- Councillors use digital devices to enlarge and adapt documents.
- Municipal documents available in various formats on request.

## **What We Still Want To Do**

- Include accessibility and accommodation statements in all job postings.
- Promote employment and recreation opportunities for youth with disabilities.
- Provide assistive technology and discuss accommodations proactively with applicants.
- Encourage sharing of employment supports among local groups (Community Services, TCRCE, NSCC, NS Works, Chamber of Commerce).
- Ensure municipal spaces used for work are fully accessible.
- Create inclusive policies for hiring and workplace accessibility.
- Install tactile signs and railings for persons with visual impairments.

# Built Environment

The built environment includes the physical spaces where residents live, work, and gather—and accessibility within these spaces is essential to inclusion. This area of focus aims to make municipal buildings, parks, sidewalks, and other public spaces safe, usable, and welcoming for everyone. Through thoughtful design, ongoing maintenance, and continued improvements, the municipality seeks to remove barriers and create spaces that promote independence and participation for all.

## Vision & Commitment

Make public buildings and spaces accessible and encourage businesses and schools to do the same.

## What We Have Accomplished

- Received funding to install accessible entrances and washrooms in the Administrative Centre.
- Maintained accessible trails like the Sherose Nature Trail and funded other multi-use trails.
- Made improvements to beaches and ramps.
- Constructed a fully accessible new Recreation Centre.
- Ensured accessible counters and washrooms in Administrative Centre renovations.

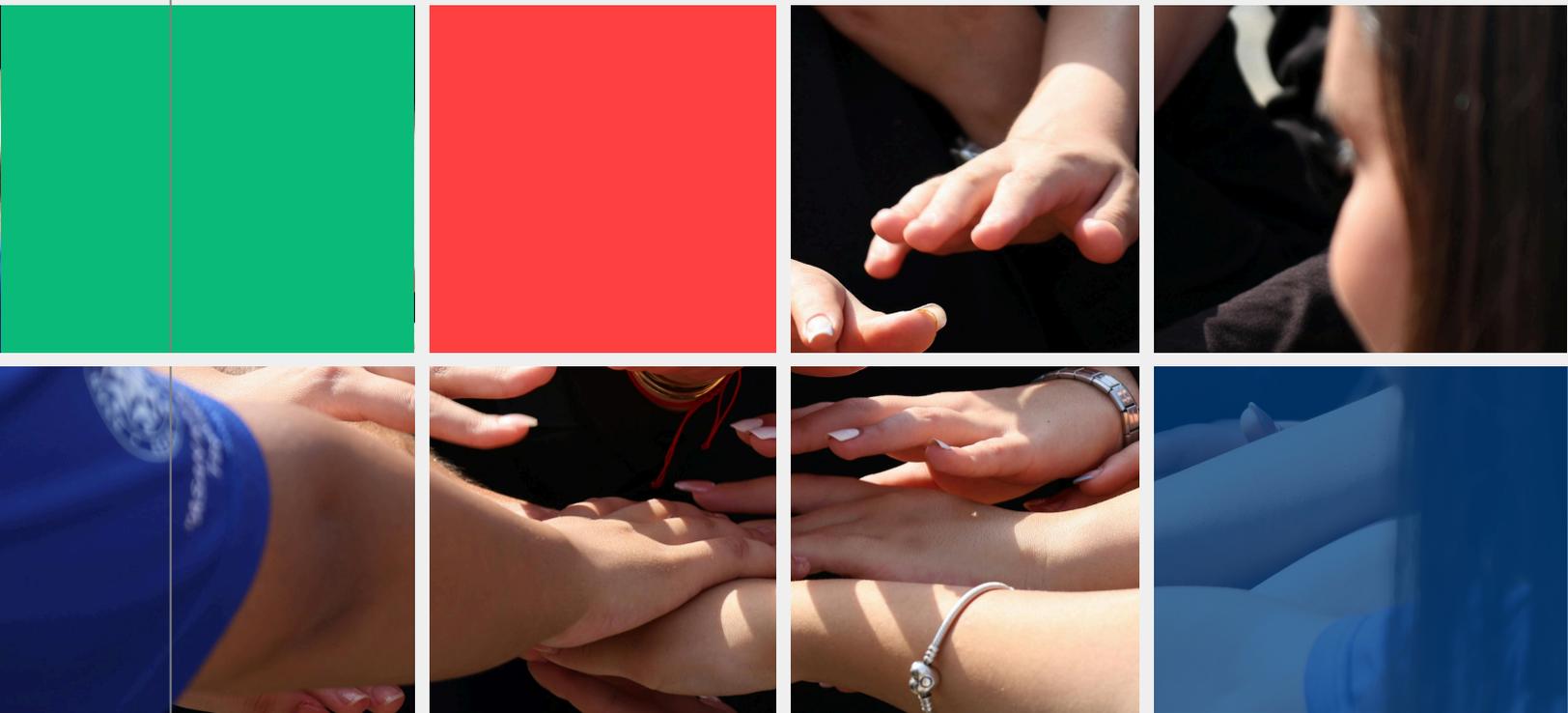
## What We Still Want To Do

- Improve sidewalks and crosswalks to ensure they are wide, flat, and well-maintained.
- Assess parking lots to ensure enough accessible spaces.
- Add accessible playground equipment and improve access to public beaches and parks.
- Designate a budget for annual accessibility improvements.
- Make picnic tables, benches, and other outdoor features accessible.
- Explore accessibility upgrades to the swimming pool.
- Promote the Province's ACCESS-Ability Grant to local businesses.



# Ongoing Consultation & Partnerships

The Municipality recognizes that achieving full accessibility requires ongoing collaboration with organizations and experts who have the lived experience, knowledge, and expertise to guide this work. While the Municipality is committed to creating inclusive spaces and services for all residents, it does not have the internal resources or specialized expertise to address every accessibility consideration on its own. For this reason, maintaining strong relationships with disability organizations and provincial partners continues to be an essential part of the Municipality's approach.



The Municipality will continue to consult with disability organizations to ensure that decisions, projects, and policies reflect the perspectives and needs of people with disabilities. These consultations will provide valuable insights that help identify barriers that may not otherwise be apparent and inform practical, effective solutions. Engagement with these organizations also helps build trust within the community and ensures that accessibility initiatives are grounded in real-world experience.

In addition to local partnerships, the Municipality benefits from support and guidance provided through broader networks. The Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia's Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, Accessible (IDEA) Support has been an important resource in helping municipal staff build awareness, share best practices, and access training related to accessibility and inclusion. Similarly, the Government of Nova Scotia's Accessibility Directorate provides leadership, guidance, and resources that assist the Municipality in understanding and meeting the requirements of the Accessibility Act and in developing practical strategies to reduce barriers in municipal programs, services, and infrastructure.

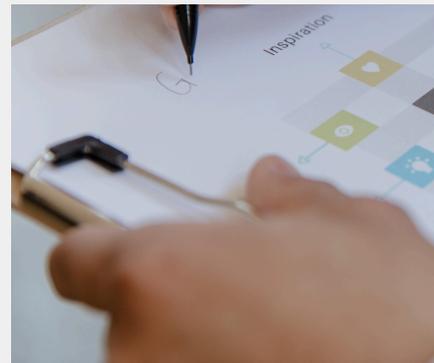
Together, these partnerships strengthen the Municipality's capacity to make meaningful progress toward becoming a barrier-free community. Ongoing consultation and collaboration will remain a key part of the Municipality's accessibility planning and implementation process.

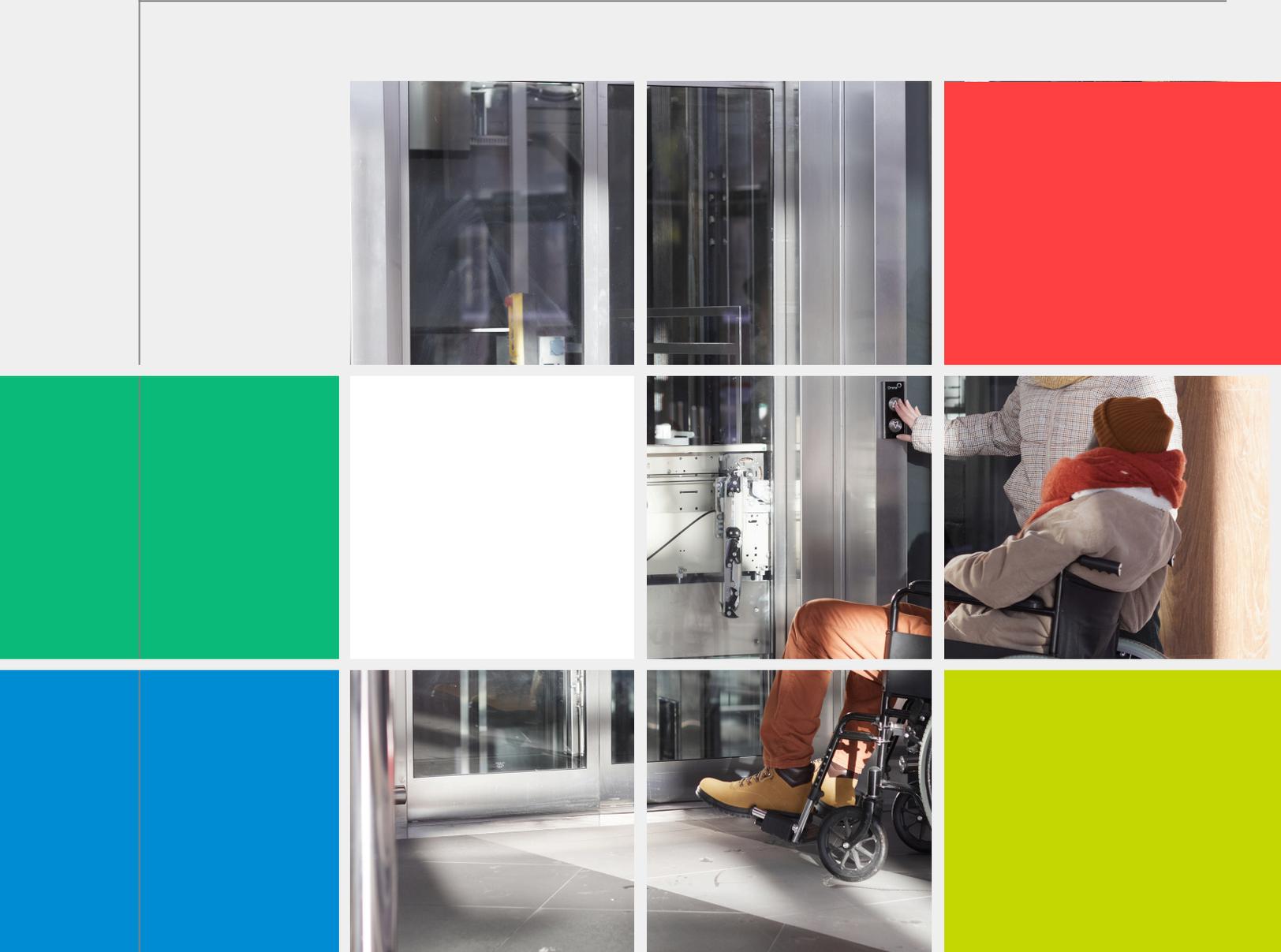


# Implementation & Monitoring

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that accessibility remains a priority within the municipality. The committee will meet at least twice a year to track progress on initiatives and provide guidance on emerging accessibility issues. Supporting the committee, the Accessibility Coordinator will organize meetings, record issues raised by the public, and offer ongoing support to ensure accessibility concerns are addressed effectively. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) will ensure that this accessibility plan is integrated into future operational plans, as required under the Accessibility Act and will continue to seek funding to support accessibility initiatives

Council recognizes the value of implementing this plan for the benefit of all residents and will update this plan again in 2028, or sooner if significant changes are required. Open communication with residents and stakeholders will be maintained to ensure transparency and community engagement. Progress on accessibility initiatives will be reported regularly to the public, reinforcing the municipality's ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive and accessible environment for everyone.





The 2025–2028 Accessibility Plan reflects our ongoing commitment to creating a barrier-free, inclusive municipality. Together with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the community, we will continue working to ensure everyone can fully participate in municipal programs, services, and spaces.

 902-637-2015

 2447 Highway 3, Barrington

 [www.barringtonmunicipality.com](http://www.barringtonmunicipality.com)