

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
September 21, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Windsor Community Centre / Hants Aquatic Centre, Windsor, NS

Agenda is subject to changes up to and including during the meeting

This meeting is open to the public and will be livestreamed on Facebook



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1. Pre-Meeting Facility Walk-Through / Audit
 - a) Windsor Community Centre, 78 Thomas Street
 - b) Hants Aquatic Centre, 306 Stannus Street
 - c) Open discussion

 2. Call to Order (at the Hants Aquatic Centre)

 3. Approval of the Agenda, including additions or deletions

 4. Announcements

 5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2023

 6. New Business
 - a) Terms of Reference Review
 - b) Provincial Built Environment Accessibility Standard Package (Draft)
 - i. Review draft package and develop feedback for the province
 - c) Active Living Strategy Partner Engagement

 7. Next Meeting Date / Meeting Adjournment

Social Time!

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda - AMENDED
June 15 29, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 76 Morison Drive, Windsor, NS
Agenda is subject to changes up to and including during the meeting
This meeting is open to the public and will be livestreamed on Facebook



1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of WHRM Active Living Coordinator, Kevin Waters / Round Table Introductions – Councillor B. Morton, Committee Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda, including additions or deletions
4. Announcements
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2022
6. Unfinished Business
 - a) Update on West Hants Sports Complex Accessibility Features
 - b) Review of Green Action Items from the Accessibility Plan
 - i. Reviewing the impact of green action items
 - ii. Prioritizing items to be completed
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment



Present

Michel Bourgeois, Resident Member	Jennifer Davison, Resident Member
Kelly Ann Jobson, Resident Member	Roseanna Boyd, Resident Member
Bob Morton, Councillor, District 6	Kevin Waters, Active Living Coordinator
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk	Tina McKay, Building and Fire Official
Kathy Johnston-Isenor, Manager, Recreation and Community Development	Carmen Dewar-Miller, Admin Assistant

1. Call to Order – Councillor B. Morton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Introduction of WHRM Active Living Coordinator, Kevin Waters / Round Table Introductions – Councillor B. Morton, Committee Chair
Councillor B. Morton provided the committee with some highlights from Staff Member Waters’s background. Staff Member Waters then took some time to introduce himself. Round table introductions were also made.
3. Approval of the Agenda, including additions or deletions
Moved by Resident Members Davison and Bourgeois that the agenda be approved.
Motion Carried.
4. Announcements – Councillor B. Morton acknowledged that we are in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People and that this land is governed by the treaties of Peace and Friendship signed in 1726. West Hants Regional Municipality also recognizes that we are all treaty people and have responsibilities to this land and each other.
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2022
Moved by Staff Members Johnston-Isenor and Waters that the December 15, 2022, meeting minutes be approved.
Motion Carried.
6. Unfinished Business
 - a) Update on West Hants Sports Complex Accessibility Features – Kathy Johnson-Isenor, Manager of Recreation and Community Engagement

Staff Member Johnson-Isenor advised the committee that acoustic panels for the rink side of the complex have been ordered. Installation is expected to be complete by the end of 2023. These panels will make a noticeable difference in noise levels. (Towards the end of the meeting Staff Member Johnston-Isenor received confirmation that a total of 117 panels are to be installed in the rink, community room and warming room.)

b) Review of Green Action Items from the Accessibility Plan – Kevin Waters, Active Living Coordinator

Staff Member Waters took some time to review and prioritize items to be completed under the six identified areas of focus.

Awareness

- Demonstrate inclusivity in municipal publications and communication material.
 - Staff members stated that there had been a recent push to improve inclusivity in our publications and communication materials. Committee members agreed.
- Actively work to increase the representation of people with disabilities on all municipal committees by extending invitations to disability support networks and groups.
 - Staff Member Waters would love to have someone else on board. Resident Member Boyd volunteered to be another stakeholder at the table for those discussions to ensure everyone’s voice is heard.
- Regularly promoting the accessibility plan and actions completed to improve accessibility. What are our current practices?
 - Staff are definitely open to hearing more feedback. They generally advertise and promote and always bring this plan to the work they are doing. Can share with committees such as Active Transportation, other community partners. Let the community know through social media, videos, community events.
 - The challenges include getting the word out to the right crowd. How else can we reach out?
 - Facebook is all-reaching. The newsletter might be an option. Promote wins such as the piece of sidewalk built to make the causeway trail more accessible. We need to let the public know about these improvements. The Town of Middleton’s website was cited - it features a page dedicated to accessibility.

- Physical copies of the plan can easily be made available.
- Provide accessible and inclusive workplace training for Council, senior leadership and key staff members.
 - We need to ensure front-line / summer staff are included. Staff Member Waters has provided training to current summer staff.
 - More training for Council is welcome.
 - Free training opportunities (webinars) are offered through organizations such as Rick Hansen, Parasport and various Coaching Associations. These can be shared.
 - If there was a web page set up, these links could be shared there.
 - Staff are looking at a few pieces of our website currently, can work to increase awareness in the next two months.
- Build strategies to support people with disabilities to participate on municipal committees.
 - The Municipality recently posted for an HR Manager position. This new hire will be focused on diversity, inclusion, accessibility and associated staff training opportunities.

Built Environment

- Initiate accessibility audits at key facilities.
 - We can continue to hold meetings at other facilities around West Hants, do the walk-throughs.
 - An audit of the sports complex was completed.
 - It was beneficial to have Jordan there, see things from his perspective
 - We could meet at one of our trails or open spaces. Possibly schedule a field trip as part of every second meeting.
 - Meet at locations outside of Windsor area such as community halls. Invite the public to attend (current practice).
- Ensure that any proposed changes to the built environment are reviewed by the AAC.
 - This is a priority for the committee.
 - No upcoming projects that anyone was aware of.
 - Staff Member Johnston-Isenor -important part here, we are making accessibility a priority. Consulting folks like Staff Member Waters when new projects are being worked on, ensuring that lens is applied.

- Commit a portion of the annual budget to go toward the installations and maintenance required for improving the accessibility of public buildings and public spaces.
 - Efforts made at the sports complex (sound baffles).
 - Recently at 76 Morison work site, a staff member was moved to a more accessible position at the front counter – lower counter access for staff member and for customers.
 - More of a focus when creating the annual municipal budget.
 - As capital projects move forward, we need to hardwire accessibility into the procurement process. Meet the standard set. Get to a place where West Hants are initiators and not adapters.
- Support local businesses in making accessibility improvements by promoting the provincial ACCESS-Ability Grant Program and providing resources for other funding opportunities.
 - We don't have access to the information on who may have received a grant. There has been work around town but no confirmation that it is connected to this grant. We can continue to focus on promotion.
- Installing visual or vibration-based smoke alarms in municipal buildings
 - This has not been done yet but is a great idea.

It was noted that the key action item under Built Environment was initiating the audits (facilities / open spaces).

Employment

- Require Council and all municipal staff to complete the Working with Abilities online training provided free of cost by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission
 - This training has been completed by all staff including new staff.
 - This training has sparked a lot of conversation among staff.
- Undertake an anonymous survey to establish a baseline employee demographic and track the number of employees with disabilities, both diagnosed and self-identifying, with the intention of reflecting the diversity of the Municipality in the municipal workforce.
 - This has not been completed. JOSH (Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee) is looking at this on a smaller scale / different perspective. Their focus is on mental health.
 - It can be proposed that JOSH kick-start this initiative.

- Assign designated liaisons to serve as the main point of contact for accessibility matters within each department.
 - This item is regarded as falling under JOSH as well. Is there an ability to develop that wing of the safety committee?
 - JOSH has capacity. Over and above, staff can go to their manager or department head to address immediate needs.
- Establish a centralized accommodation fund to pay for assistive technology, devices and accommodations for employees.
 - We can look into the liaisons to carry forward with this task.
 - To some degree this is already being done. There is never any question to implement and accommodate if a need is identified. May require the fund to be more formalized.
 - Sounds like it's being taken care of now. Let's not overcomplicate.
 - Staff Member Snair will confirm and follow up with an email.

Programs and Services (Lot of top priorities in this category)

- Provide annual accessibility and inclusion customer service training for new and existing customer service, sports complex, aquatic centre, and recreation programming staff.
 - This would be much the same training the summer staff received.
 - Doing a decent job of this with Community Development staff.
 - Need to have larger conversations with other departments and offer that training to them.
 - Staff Member Waters can offer training. He created a training program that could be delivered to a larger audience.
- Introduce the use of assessment of accessibility impact as a part of staff reports to Council.
 - This has been identified and can be pushed ahead.
 - We can assess what we can move forward with. We don't have to solve all the problems today.
 - When we have presenters at Council, accommodations are made as required.
 - HRM's staff reports include a line item for an accessibility component. Not applicable to all reports, but there is an accessibility piece. Could be an opportunity for the committee to have input.
 - This is doable.

- Meeting agendas and minutes are posted online. A hard copy would be available if requested.
- The Comms Team is always reviewing documents using a standard of accessibility. Community feedback is welcome, please reach out to staff.
- The minutes from Accessibility Committee meetings are posted online.
- Meetings livestreamed on Facebook are close captioned but not always accurately. Unsure as to how to address this.
- Undertake a review of recreation programming to identify barriers to participation, feasible adaptations to eliminate barriers, and / or new inclusive programming opportunities.
 - Community Development staff engage the community and create opportunities where they didn't exist before. For every program or event, they are continuously looking at how to break down barriers – financial, accessibility, etc.
 - Staff Member Waters is looking at redeveloping the Active Living Strategy (they would love to hear from the community).
 - Staff are actively setting up engagement sessions through the summer, community socials, getting out to the rural communities
 - Working with community partners
 - Developed and launched Inspire Fund to assist community members who are struggling with cost / accessibility to local recreation programs.
 - Apply for funding. Community Development offered a program called “Adaptive Try-It” through Sport Nova Scotia. There were some challenges, mostly environmental (lack of snow). We have been given an extension, there will be focus on accessibility.
 - Community consultation is coming soon.
- Train staff in the safe and proper use of adaptive recreation equipment.
 - This has been discussed as a group. Possibly use some videos to promote and train.
 - Very rarely does the adaptive equipment on hand get used. The municipality wants to purchase equipment that folks can use. Needs to be promoted.

- Prioritize snow clearance on sidewalks and crosswalks and provide training to plow operators to increase awareness about maintaining barrier-free access.
 - Councillor B. Morton noted that a good job was done this year.
 - At HRM, when snow removal went to contract, staff met with contracted foremen to review expectations for snow clearing such as no backfill on crosswalk.
 - We can highlight this to revisit at next meeting.
- Investigate opportunities for partnerships with local organizations with expertise in adaptive sport and recreation to support the development of adaptive sports programming.
 - This is currently being done and continues to grow.

Information and Communication

- Establish a dedicated stream of communication for accessibility-related information. This information should be available in digital and print formats.
 - Using Word instead of a PDF allows for headers to be highlighted. Anyone using an e-reader can jump from report to report. We can look to slowly move toward that.
 - With reference to the Town of Middleton website barrier-free page as something we might be able to do. Improve rather than recreate the wheel.
- Train relevant staff in the use of plain language and accessible document formatting.
 - Staff Member Waters touches on plain language in the training he delivers. This can be added into in-house training.
 - Document formatting should be consistent across the board.
- Create modified version of key municipal documents and resources such as forms, bills and statements, and brochures in accessible formats. Accessible formats should include at minimum large print, plain language and screen reader compatible digital communications.
 - Some documents are moving toward this. We don't have that standard as of yet in West Hants. As we strive to meet one point, we are touching on multiple points. Adopt the principals of large print, etc.

- Staff Member Snair has printed minutes and reports with larger font and bolding. If the request is there, we do whatever we can.
- Would love to hear from people with suggestions on being more accessible.
- Develop an accessible signage and wayfinding toolkit to support people with vision or hearing impairments.
 - Definitely a challenging one.
 - Agreement that this is something the rail trail committee could look into
- Create promotional material to build awareness of adaptive recreation and inclusive programming. This could include video content and print material.
 - This is something we do very well, especially video content.
 - Staff are always looking to improve.
 - For anyone who has seen the videos, what can be improved?
 - The sound quality. Community Development just got new mics.
 - No need for big, flashy videos.

Transportation

- Prioritize the implementation of the Active Transportation (AT) Plan.
 - Staff love doing that.
 - There is an AT Committee that meets on a regular basis. Staff Member Waters oversees that committee.
 - AT is working on a plan in partnership with Cycle Nova Scotia to make Windsor more active transportation friendly.
 - There is currently a survey out related to this partnership. We invite all to give feedback through this survey. The results will inform future work and help create a safe active transportation community.
 - The Blue Route (for bicycles) on either side of Windsor needs to flow through the community safely.
 - Can we explore inclusion of AT trail / sidewalk on any new road upgrades?
 - Through AT, we meet with the province and Public Works to get a heads-up on these road projects. TMP connector road was cited as an example - needs widened shoulders. High priority.
- Initiate a public transit feasibility study to investigate appropriate transit models for a municipally operated transit service.

- There is currently a broader body looking at this. Council has met with them during their last meeting. In the very preliminary stages. Council talks a great deal about transit and will continue to work with this group.
- Prioritize support for West Hants Dial-A-Ride, to help them expand their service offerings.
 - Dial-A-Ride are identified as a line item within the budget and receive financial support from Council.
- Actively promote and increase awareness of community-based transportation providers including West Hants Dial-A-Ride and the Windsor Senior Citizens' Bus Society (WSCBS).
 - This is an opportunity for us. For two seasons we have been taking a Community Development approach when creating our seasonal recreation programming guides. Looking at helping other recreation providers and not-for-profits. We have a whole page dedicated to community-type information, could extend space as required to bus society (already working with Dial-A-Ride).
 - What services do these two organizations provide?
 - Dial-A-Ride assists with drives for residents with transportation barriers (groceries, work, medical appointments, etc.).
 - More information to be provided on the WSCBS at the next meeting.
 - We do not currently promote these services on our website.
 - A new web page will make that achievable. Good place to promote these services, taking that community development approach.
- Prioritize AT facilities in the asset management plan.
- Improve lighting on the municipal road and trail network.
 - A few years back lighting was improved on the causeway trail. After highway construction is complete, these lights will be reactivated.
 - Council has requested information as to where on municipal roads streetlights could be added. No timeline for this as of yet.
 - Staff are working on that policy; Staff Member Snair has seen a rough draft.

At this point Staff Member Waters gave the floor to the committee to prioritize.

- Some of the communication pieces should be prioritized. Other municipalities were cited such as the Town of Kentville. They use a large electronic sign to provide Council updates to residents.

- There was a question about the proposed sidewalk from New Boundaries on Centennial Drive to the sports complex. Councillor B. Morton has presented this to Council. In the works but there is no update yet.
- Upcoming community socials and the new community events trailer were mentioned. The trailer's decals, provided by Repracorp, represent our diverse and inclusive community.

7. Next Meeting Date / Adjournment – tentative for September. Terms of Reference to be sent out in advance of this meeting for review and suggested revisions.

Moved by Staff Member Johnson-Isenor and Resident Member Bourgeois that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Official Name

The official name of this committee is the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

2. Members/Composition

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will consist of seven (7) members. At least half of the members must be people with disabilities or represent organizations that represent people with disabilities, in accordance with the *Accessibility Act*.

The members of the Committee will be appointed by Council, in accordance with Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy as follows:

- One (1) Council member for a two-year term
- Four (4) resident members for a two-year term
- Two (2) resident members for a three-year term

Resident members will not be members of Council or employees of the Municipality.

If a member vacates the Committee for any reason at any time before that member's term would normally end, Council will promptly appoint a new member to the Committee until the end of the term which was vacated.

3. Goals

The goal of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is to provide advice to Council on identifying, preventing and elimination of barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities.

The Committee aims to play a pivotal role in helping the Municipality become a barrier-free community and ensuring obligations under the *Accessibility Act*.

4. Deliverables

The Committee will deliver the following:

- a) Advise Council in the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan. In accordance with the Act, the plan must include:
 - A report on measures the Municipality has taken and intends to take to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
 - Information on procedures the Municipality has in place to assess the following for their effect on accessibility for persons with disabilities:
 - i. Any of its proposed policies, programs, practices and services, and
 - ii. Any proposed enactments or bylaws it will be administering; and
 - Any other prescribed information.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

- b) Advise Council on the impact of the Municipality's policies, programs and services on persons with disabilities;
- c) Review and monitor existing and proposed Municipal by-laws to promote full participation of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Act;
- d) Identify and advise on the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities;
- e) Advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Municipality's Accessibility Plan;
- f) Receive and review information directed to it by Council and its committees, and to make recommendations as requested;
- g) Assist in monitoring Federal and Provincial government directives and regulations; and,
- h) Host community consultations related to accessibility in the Municipality.

5. Jurisdiction

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is created as required by Section 44 the Accessibility Act, 2017 and is an advisory committee of Council in accordance with Section 24 of the Municipal Government Act, 1998, c.18. The Committee has been established as a permanent committee of Council by the *Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy*.

6. Resources/Budget

The Municipality will appoint a staff member as the Accessibility Coordinator to support the work of the Committee in developing an accessibility plan; monitor implementation progress; and coordinate concern, complaint and suggestions about the plan.

Additional staff of the Municipality are available to assist the Committee with the creation and implementation of accessibility plans. The Accessibility Coordinator and other staff appointed are not voting members of the Committee.

Resident members of the Committee will be paid in accordance with the *Council Remuneration Policy*.

All budgetary considerations for the Committee will be included in the approved annual budget or approved by Council if outside the budget.

The *Procurement and Tendering Policy* and the *Hospitality Policy* will be followed as required.

7. Governance

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will meet no less than six times per year and may meet more often if required to fulfill the duties as outlined.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

A quorum for Accessibility Advisory Committee will four (4) members.

Each year members of the Committee will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair.

The Committee may receive presentations from the public upon approval of the Chair.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee may establish Working Groups to explore specific issues related to the accessibility plan and/or to other responsibilities.

Members of the Working Group may consist of additional members of the community.

A member of the Committee will be Chair of the Working Group(s).

8. Communications

Accessibility Advisory Committee members and staff will communicate with each other at meetings (in person or electronic), by telephone or by email.

Draft minutes of Committee meetings will be available to the public and be approved at the next meeting.

All Committee meetings are open to the public, except as specified in Section 22(2) of the Municipal Government Act.

A contact list will be circulated to the Committee members and updated as required.

Meeting invites and agenda packages will be circulated by email a minimum of three days prior to each meeting.

9. Related Policies, Procedures and Legislation

Accessibility Act, 2019

Municipal Government Act, 1998 as amended

Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy, RCOGE-003.00

Hospitality Policy, RCOFN-001.00

Procurement and Tendering Policy, RCOFN-003.00

Council Remuneration Policy, RCOHR-001.00

Approved by: _____
 Committee Chair

Adoption	
Notice to Council:	Not Applicable
Approval:	<i>Date</i>
Description: Initial approval of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.	

Draft Proposed

Built Environment Accessibility Standard Package

Disclaimer

This is a draft document for the purpose of review and comment only. This is not law and is subject to change; it should not be used for reference purposes.





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Introduction

This draft proposed standard aims to remove and prevent barriers in the built environment for persons with disabilities. Accessibility standards are a key part of the Government of Nova Scotia's goal of an accessible province by 2030.

This is a draft proposed accessibility standard for the built environment. It has been developed by Government of Nova Scotia using the recommendations of people with disabilities and subject matter experts.

This is a draft document for the purpose of review and comment only. This draft is not law and is subject to change; it should not be used for reference purposes.

Background

Nova Scotia's *Accessibility Act*, enacted in 2017, recognizes accessibility as a human right and sets a goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. It enables Government to develop accessibility standards in six areas, including the built environment.

Under the *Accessibility Act* the Accessibility Advisory Board (Board) makes recommendations to Government on accessibility standards. In March 2019, the Board established its Built Environment Standard Development Committee (Committee) to assist with this work.

Committee members represented people with disabilities, representatives from organizations representing people with disabilities, representatives from sectors impacted by the standard, and representatives from government departments from across the province. A minimum of 50% of committee members identified as or represented people with disabilities to ensure significant and meaningful First Voice representation. The committee researched, deliberated, and consulted with the community regarding its recommendations to the Board on the content and implementation of accessibility standard in the Built Environment.

The committee submitted recommendations in two phases. Phase 1 recommendations were submitted to Minister of Justice in 2020, and Phase 2 recommendations were submitted in 2021. For more information, visit [Recommendations for an accessibility standard in the built environment](#).

Guiding Principles

These principles represent the values and behaviours that have guided the development of the drafting of this standard and will continue to guide the work of finalizing and implementing the standard and associated work.

Nothing About Us Without Us

First Voice input and insights inform the development of this standard. Input of persons with disabilities occurs throughout the process, beginning with people with disabilities forming the majority of the Standard Development Committee. People with a wide range of types of disabilities were included throughout the process.

Intersectionality

Work to develop this standard is approached with an intersectional lens. This means that consideration is given to how disability interacts with other parts of a person's identity or circumstance. This includes considerations of how disability interacts with race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, etc.

Universal Design

Development of this proposed standard used the principles of universal design. Universal design aims to design the built environment so that it can be accessed and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of disability, age, or other factors. Everyone benefits from a built environment that is accessible.

Human Rights

Accessibility is a human right. This proposed standard strives to make sure all Nova Scotians can fully and meaningfully take part in society.



A Note on Language

Language to describe people is complex and changes over time. The ways an individual identifies may be deeply personal. In this proposed standard, you will find reference to persons with disabilities. The *Accessibility Act* defines disability as “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”. While this language is not perfect, our intent in this work is to be inclusive, accessible, and respectful.

Proposed Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations

1. Scope

The built environment includes human-made spaces in which people live, work, learn, and play. This includes inside and outside of buildings as well as outdoor spaces such as trails, parks, and beaches.

The proposed standard and associated work is in response to the Accessibility Advisory Board's standard recommendations, which covered nine categories:

1. Site selection
2. Exteriors
3. Accessible Parking
4. Interiors
5. Emergency Systems
6. Housing
7. Wayfinding and Signage
8. Parks and Recreation
9. Schools and Public Libraries

2. Components

The Accessibility Advisory Board made standard recommendations for a variety of policy instruments. This included recommendations for accessibility standard regulations to be enacted under the *Accessibility Act*, recommendations for amendments to the *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations*, and recommendations for guidelines.

The proposed standard work is now being shared with Nova Scotians for public comment and includes the following components:

Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations are laws that outline rights and create duties, obligations, and responsibilities for the organizations that are affected by them. Regulations relating to matters outside of the scope of the Building Code will be found in the Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations under the *Accessibility Act*.

Building Code Amendments are changes to the *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations*.

Fire Code Amendments are amendments to the *Nova Scotia Fire Safety Regulations*.

Government Actions are actions Government will take to advance accessibility in the built environment.

Guidelines are non-mandatory guidance for organizations to make the built environment accessible.

The proposed accessibility standard regulations as well as associated work including guidelines and proposed changes to the *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations* are being shared with Nova Scotians for public comment.

3. Application

The proposed Built Environment Accessibility Standard mostly applies to new construction and redevelopments. It aims to *prevent* new barriers from being created in the built environment. Many organizations may choose to go beyond the minimum requirements of the accessibility standard.

Government of Nova Scotia has committed to leading by example in accessibility and has made commitments in its accessibility plan to address accessibility barriers in existing infrastructure. For more information, visit [Government of Nova Scotia 2022-2025 Accessibility Plan](#).

Component	Application
Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply to Government of Nova Scotia, Prescribed Public Sector Bodies, and other organizations prescribed by the Regulations
<i>Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply to design and construction of new buildings• Apply to alteration, reconstruction, demolition, and relocation of existing buildings• Apply to work necessary to correct unsafe conditions in existing buildings
Fire Safety Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply to the construction, intended use, demolition, condition, and protection of buildings and facilities.
Government Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply to Government of Nova Scotia
Accessibility Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May be adopted by any organization

4. Compliance & Enforcement

Once the Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations are enacted, they become law. The target for enactment of the Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations is early 2024. It is proposed that these regulations would become effective in 2026. This would allow time for organizations to become aware of the new requirements and to incorporate the requirements into their plans and budgets for infrastructure.

Note: The *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations* follow a separate enforcement process. Once a new set of *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations* is released, all new building permits would be required to meet the updated Building Code requirements.

Exemptions

The Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations do not allow for exemptions unless stated in the regulation.

Partial Compliance

The Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations do not allow for partial compliance unless stated in the regulation.

5. Review

The *Accessibility Act* requires a review of the effectiveness of the Act and accessibility standards every five years. Amendments to accessibility standards may be considered after each review or in between review periods if approved by the Governor-in-Council.

Accessibility guidelines may be modified from time to time and published by the Accessibility Directorate.

The *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations* are modified by Ministerial Order from time to time. Any modifications first require giving sufficient notice to municipalities and the public about the changes.

6. Providing Feedback

To provide feedback, visit novascotia.ca/built-environment-public-review.

7. Next Steps

After this public review period, the feedback will be compiled and analyzed. Other jurisdictions are also developing accessibility standards for the built environment. We will continue to review and consider the work of other jurisdictions, including that of Accessibility Standards Canada, as we finalize this standard.

The *Accessibility Act* requires that the feedback be shared with the Accessibility Advisory Board. The Minister of Justice will then consider whether any changes should be made to the proposed Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations. Once the standard is finalized, the Minister of Justice will recommend to the Governor-in-Council that it be approved as regulation.

Accessibility standards in other areas are being developed to support the goal of making Nova Scotia accessible. If you would like to learn more, visit the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate's website at novascotia.ca/accessibility.

Regulations

DRAFT Built Environment Standard Regulations under the *Accessibility Act*

1. Scope and Application

1.1 General

- a) These regulations apply to the maintenance, design, construction, alteration, reconstruction, and use of the built environment.
- b) Except as otherwise specified, these regulations apply to aspects of the built environment that are newly constructed or redeveloped on or after April 1, 2026.
- c) Where any aspect of the built environment that is the subject of these regulations is redeveloped, these regulations apply to the parts of the built environment that are redeveloped.

1.2. Inclusions

These regulations apply to:

- a) aspects of the built environment including indoor and outdoor spaces
- b) aspects of the built environment that are not within the scope of the *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations*

1.3. Exclusions

These regulations do not apply to:

- a) federally regulated infrastructure (e.g., national parks, federal courts and tribunals, airports, federally regulated businesses such as banks, etc.)
- b) aspects of the built environment that are governed by the *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations*
- c) aspects of the built environment that are governed by the *Nova Scotia Fire Code Regulations*

2. Definitions

“Accessible Pedestrian Signals” are devices used to allow pedestrians with visual disabilities to use the ‘walk’ and ‘don’t walk’ signals when they are attempting to cross a street.

“barrier-free path of travel” means a pedestrian path of travel that is free of barriers and usable by persons with disabilities.

“beach access routes” means routes that are constructed and are intended for pedestrian use by the public and that provide access from off-street parking facilities, recreational trails, exterior paths of travel and amenities to an area of a beach that is intended for recreational use by the public.

“cane detectable” means any object or a change in surface texture that falls within the detection range of a long white cane.

“clear floor space” means the amount of unobstructed floor or ground space required to accommodate a single stationary user with a mobility device / aid, such as wheelchairs, scooters, canes, crutches and walkers.

“colour contrast” means a significant contrast in colour between the foreground and the background of an element.

“CSA B651” means the 2023 Canadian Standards Association’s “Accessible design for the built environment”.

“Dynamic Symbol of Access” means an accessibility symbol, which depicts a person in motion who is seated in a wheelchair and leaning forward with a sense of movement.

“Emergency Evacuation Plan” means a plan to address the needs of persons with disabilities who are not able to independently evacuate the building in the case of an emergency.

“frontcountry campground” means a campground, or portion of a campground, that offers campsites that are primarily accessed by vehicle.

“highway” means

- a) a public street, highway, sidewalk, lane, road or alley;
- b) a part of a public park, a beach or other public property that is accessible to the public for driving motor vehicles and not solely for driving off-highway vehicles; or
- c) privately owned property that is designed to be and is accessible to the public for driving motor vehicles and not solely for driving off-highway vehicles.

“illumination” means the combined amount and intensity of lighting provided, as measured in lux.

“lux” means the metric measurement for light intensity or illumination.

“Nova Scotia Building Code” means the regulations made under the *Nova Scotia Building Code Act*, as amended from time to time.

“on-street parking” means parking spaces located on highways that provide direct access to shops, offices and other facilities whether or not the payment of a fee is charged.

“outdoor play spaces” means a public area that includes play equipment, such as swings, or features such as logs, rocks, sand or water, where the equipment or features are designed and placed to provide play opportunities and experiences for children and caregivers.

“outdoor public eating area” means an area that is specifically intended for use by the public as a place to consume food, including public parks, hospital grounds, university campuses.

“parking areas” means open area parking lots not associated with a building that are intended for the temporary parking of vehicles by the public, whether or not the payment of a fee is charged.

“pedestrian ramp” means a sloped surface that allows people to move safely and efficiently between vehicular and pedestrian routes, but does not include driveways.

“prescribed public sector bodies” means an entity designated under the Accessibility General Regulations, as amended from time to time.

“multi-purpose recreation centre” means any building that is open to the public for an active recreational purpose and includes at least two of the following:

- (a) a gymnasium;
- (b) a pool;
- (c) an ice pad;
- (d) a track;
- (e) a racket sport court;
- (f) a fitness room;
- (g) a community gathering room.

“recreational trail” means public shared use trails that are intended for recreational and leisure purposes that are managed or operated by Government or a prescribed public sector body, a registered not-for-profit organization that develops trails, or an incorporated trail group.

“redeveloped” means significant alterations to the built environment but does not include maintenance activities.

“slip resistant” means a surface that provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.

“specified geographic region” means a defined area that is determined after giving consideration to:

- (a) population base;
- (b) geographic nature of the land;
- (c) existing infrastructure, including access to public transportation; and
- (d) distance Nova Scotians will have to travel from their primary residence to an accessible trail, park, beach access route and public outdoor play space.

“tactile walking surface indicator” means a standardized surface using truncated domes that are detectable by cane or foot to assist persons with low vision or blindness by signalling the need for caution at a change in elevation, a vehicular route, or other obstruction.

“Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual” means the manual published by the Department of Public Works and amended from time to time.

“traffic barrier” means an obstruction used to minimize the frequency and severity of accidents involving pedestrians leaving the sidewalk into vehicular traffic.

3. Site Selection Accessibility Criteria

When Government or a prescribed public sector body is evaluating new sites for outdoor spaces and buildings primarily designed for public use, they must ensure the following accessibility criteria are considered:

- (a) availability of public transportation;
- (b) sidewalk access;
- (c) availability of accessible on-site parking;
- (d) safe drop off locations; and
- (e) proximity to community and clientele that the space or building is intended to serve.

4. Accessible Entrance Illumination

Where an accessible entrance is provided, the path leading to the entrance must provide illumination with an average light level of 50 lux, with no area less than 10 lux.

5. Plans for Accessible Entrance

- (1) Where an accessible entrance is provided, owners and operators must have a plan in place to ensure accessible entrances remain free from physical obstruction.
- (2) The plan referred to in subsection (1) must be made available to the public upon request.

6. Exterior Stairs, not associated with a building

Exterior stairs, not associated with a building, that are connected to a barrier free path of travel and are intended to serve a functional purpose must have:

- (a) uniform risers and runs in any one flight;
- (b) tread surface finish that is slip resistant;
- (c) a rise between successive treads must be between 125 mm and 180 mm;
- (d) a run between successive steps must be between 280 mm and 355 mm;
- (e) closed risers;
- (f) tread nosing projection of a maximum of 38 mm, with no abrupt undersides;
- (g) high tonal contrast markings that extend the full tread width of the leading edge of each step;
- (h) tactile walking surface indicators that are built in or applied to the walking surface, and the tactile walking surface indicators must:
 - (i) have raised tactile profiles,
 - (ii) have a high tonal contrast with the adjacent surface,
 - (iii) be located at the top of all flights of stairs, and
 - (iv) extend the full tread width to a minimum depth of 610 mm commencing one tread depth from the edge of the stair;
- (i) handrails included on both sides of stairs and comply with the requirements related to handrails set out in Nova Scotia Building Code 9.39.2.3; and
- (j) a guard that is not less than 920 mm, measured vertically to the top of the guard from a line drawn through the outside edges of the stair nosings and 1070 mm around the landings and is required on each side of a stairway where the difference in elevation between ground level and the top of the stair is more than 600 mm but, where there is a wall, a guard is not required on that side.

7. Parking areas not associated with a building

- (1) Parking areas, not associated with a building, must include parking stalls for use by persons with disabilities as designated by the following table:

Number of Parking Stalls	Number of Designated Accessible Stalls Required
2–15	1
16–45	2
46–100	3
101–200	4
201–300	5
301–400	6
401–500	7
501–900	8
901–1300	9
1301–1700	10
each increment of up to 400 stalls in excess of 1700	one additional space

- (2) Specifications of accessible parking stalls for use by persons with disabilities must:
- (a) not be less than 2600 mm wide;
 - (b) include an access aisle not less than 2000 mm wide and if more than one parking space is provided for persons with disabilities, a single access aisle can serve two adjacent parking stalls;
 - (c) not be less than 7500 mm long for parallel parking stalls;
 - (d) have a firm, slip resistant and level surface of asphalt, concrete, or compacted gravel;
 - (e) be clearly marked as accessible parking by using the International Symbol of Access or the Dynamic Symbol of Access; and
 - (f) be identified by a sign located not less than 1500 mm above ground level.

- (3) All accessible parking stalls must be designed to include a barrier-free path of travel extending to the entrance of the parking area and include:
 - (a) vertical signage that is colour contrast at all areas where a pedestrian crosses traffic;
 - (b) illumination with an average light level of 50 lux, with no area less than 10 lux.
 - (c) a pedestrian ramp, where applicable, including tactile surfaces and colour contrast;
 - (d) pavement markings, where applicable; and
 - (e) pedestrian ramps, where applicable.
- (4) The requirements of this section do not apply to the types of parking areas that are used exclusively for one of the following:
 - (a) buses;
 - (b) delivery vehicles;
 - (c) law enforcement vehicles;
 - (d) medical transportation vehicles, such as ambulances;
 - (e) impounded vehicles; or
 - (f) used as a carpool lot.

8. Maintenance of Parking Areas

- (1) All organizations having control of parking areas, whether attached to a building or not, must establish a regular maintenance plan that addresses the maintenance of the accessibility features of the parking area.
- (2) A maintenance plan must address the following:
 - (a) painting of accessibility symbols;
 - (b) painting of parking space lines;
 - (c) maintenance of surface area; and
 - (d) maintenance of accessibility signage throughout the parking area.
- (3) The plan referred to in subsection (1) must be made available to the public upon request.

9. On-street Parking

- (1) Government or a prescribed public sector body responsible for on-street parking must consult with persons with disabilities on the need, location, and design of accessible on-street parking spaces.
- (2) All accessible on-street parking spaces located next to a curb must include a pedestrian ramp and a barrier-free path of travel to the sidewalk.
- (3) Pedestrian ramps required in subsection (2) must include tactile walking surface indicators and colour contrast.

10. Sidewalks

Government and prescribed public sector bodies must comply with the following design specifications for sidewalks:

- (a) Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads published by the Transportation Association of Canada, as amended from time to time; and
- (b) CSA B651 standard section 8.3.5. respecting “Alignment of pedestrian crossing components”.

11. Temporary Sidewalks

- (1) This section applies to all temporary sidewalks, including those that are installed to accommodate sidewalk cafés, restaurant patios, and construction zones.
- (2) Temporary sidewalks must:
 - (a) have a firm and level surface;
 - (b) be slip resistant;
 - (c) not impede pedestrian traffic movement or safety;
 - (d) be a minimum of 1600 mm in width;
 - (e) be guarded by a traffic barrier between 0.81m and 1.05m in height at ends exposed to vehicular travel;
 - (f) incorporate reflective elements on the traffic barrier required in subclause (c);
 - (g) have a clear height of no less than 2100 mm where covered.
- (3) Where a temporary sidewalk is required as a result of construction, pedestrian signage must be installed in accordance with the Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual.

- (4) Where lighting is placed on a temporary sidewalk, it must not:
 - (a) interfere with any traffic signal light, control sign or device;
 - (b) obstruct or interfere with the movement of motorists or pedestrians;
 - (c) produce or cause glare to motorists, pedestrians, or neighbouring premises; or
 - (d) move or appear to move.
- (5) Where the requirements of this section cannot be achieved given the particular nature and location of a construction zone, a crosswalk to a barrier-free sidewalk must be provided before the obstruction occurs.
- (6) Where barrier-free access to the principal entrance of a property is not available as a result of a temporary sidewalk, a ramp must be provided to facilitate barrier-free access.

12. Objects in path of travel

- (1) The location and dimensions of street furniture, signage, banners, flower pots, waste receptacles, or any other objects must not impede a clear accessible path of travel for pedestrians.
- (2) A clear accessible path of travel requires objects to be cane detectable to the ground.

13. Pedestrian Signals

Government and prescribed public sector bodies having responsibility for pedestrian signals must include Accessible Pedestrian Signals where pedestrian signals are installed.

14. Snow and Ice Control

Government and prescribed public sector bodies must make their snow and ice control standards for pedestrian facilities publicly available.

15. Emergency Evacuation Plan

- (1) All buildings not required under the Nova Scotia Fire Code to have a Fire Safety Plan and all residential buildings that have 4 or more units with an occupancy of less than 11, must keep an Emergency Evacuation Plan at the principal entrance of the building.
- (2) An Emergency Evacuation Plan must:
 - (a) contain the following emergency procedures to be used in case of fire:
 - (i) notifying the fire department;
 - (ii) instructing occupants on procedures to be followed when a fire is detected;
 - (iii) evacuating occupants, including special provisions for persons with disabilities requiring assistance; and
 - (iv) confining, controlling and extinguishing the fire.

- (b) identify supervisory staff to carry out the evacuation duties; and
 - (c) identify the training of supervisory staff and other occupants in their responsibilities about the evacuation plan.
- (3) The Evacuation Plan must be reviewed by the building owner/operator at intervals not greater than 12 months to ensure that accounts for changes in the use and other characteristics of the building.

16. Placement of Defibrillators

Where defibrillators are mounted, they must:

- (a) be on a barrier-free path of travel,
- (b) be adjacent to a clear floor space of a minimum of 820 mm wide by 1390 mm long; and
- (c) be mounted no more than 1200 mm above the floor level.

17. Lockers

- (1) Multi-use recreation centres must have accessible lockers that comply with the following:
- (a) be provided along a barrier-free path of travel;
 - (b) be adjacent to a clear floor space of a minimum of 820 mm by 1390 mm in front of the locker when the locker door is open;
 - (c) have controls mounted between 400 to 1200 mm above the floor;
 - (d) be operable with one hand in a closed fist position, without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist;
 - (e) be located in proximity of an accessible bench or accessible change room with a bench; and
 - (f) not allow storage on top of the locker.
- (2) For purposes of subsection (1) a minimum number of accessible lockers must be provided in accordance with the following table:

Number of lockers	Number of Designated Accessible Lockers
1-30	1
31-50	2
51-150	3
151-300	4
(for every additional 50 lockers 1)	5+

18. Pools

Outdoor and indoor swimming pools intended for public use must have:

- (a) one of the following at the shallow end of the pool:
 - (i) a sloped entry; or
 - (ii) a pool lift
- (b) visual contrast along the edge of the pool and access points; and
- (c) tactile warning indicators on the edge of pools.

19. Outdoor public eating areas

Outdoor public eating areas must meet the following requirements:

- (a) a minimum of 20 per cent of the tables provided must be accessible;
- (b) where less than five tables are provided, there must be a minimum of 1 accessible table; and
- (c) the tables referred to in subsection (1) must:
 - (i) be on a barrier-free path of travel;
 - (ii) located on a level and firm surface that extends at least 2000 mm on all sides; and
 - (iii) be equipped with knee clearance of at least of 800 mm wide x 430 mm deep x 685 mm high.

20. Benches

- (1) Where Government and prescribed public sector bodies install benches in areas intended for public use that are adjacent to a barrier-free path of travel, they must be:
 - (a) located on a firm, stable surface;
 - (b) be adjacent to a clear floor space of a minimum of 820 mm x 1390 mm to permit maneuverability;
 - (c) have a seat height between 430 mm and 485 mm from the ground; and
 - (d) be free of any sharp or abrasive edges.
- (2) Where there are more than five benches, a mix of options including benches with back rests, benches with arm rests, and benches with both must be provided.

21. Development of Plan for Accessible Outdoor Spaces

- (1) Government must develop a multiyear plan to address access to recreational trails, parks, beaches, and public outdoor play spaces in Nova Scotia.
- (2) The plan must ensure that there will be a minimum of the following in each specified geographic region by 2030:
 - (a) 1 accessible recreational trail;
 - (b) 1 accessible park;
 - (c) 1 beach access route, if applicable; and
 - (d) 10 accessible public outdoor play spaces.
- (3) When developing the plan, Government must seek input from persons with disabilities, Municipalities and Villages, and trail subject matter experts.
- (4) The plan referred to in this section must be made publicly available.

22. Campgrounds

- (1) Government and privately owned frontcountry campgrounds must have a minimum number of accessible campsites as designated by the following table:

Number of sites	Number of Designated Accessible Campsites
1-30	1
31-50	2
51-150	3
151-300	4
(for every additional 50 campsites 1)	5+

- (2) An accessible campsite must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) be on a firm, stable ground surface;
 - (b) have a barrier-free path of travel to accessible potable water station;
 - (c) have a barrier-free path of travel to an accessible washroom; and
 - (d) have an accessible picnic table equipped with knee clearance of at least of 800 mm wide x 430 mm deep x 685 mm high.

23. Outdoor play spaces

Government and prescribed public sector bodies must comply with the following design specifications for outdoor play spaces:

- (a) include a barrier-free path of travel to associated buildings, where applicable;
- (b) include a barrier-free path of travel to pedestrian facilities, where applicable;
- (c) incorporate accessibility features, such as sensory and active play components, for children and caregivers with various disabilities, into the design of outdoor play spaces;
- (d) be situated on a firm and stable ground surface; and
- (e) include sufficient clearance for children and caregivers to manoeuvre in and around the outdoor play space.

24. Outdoor classrooms

Outdoor classrooms attached to a public school must include:

- (a) a barrier-free path of travel from the building;
- (b) a firm and stable ground surface; and
- (c) accessible seating options.

Government and prescribed public sector bodies must comply with the following design specifications for water filling stations:

- (a) be located on a barrier-free path of travel;
- (b) be adjacent to a clear floor space of a minimum of 820 mm by 1390 mm; and
- (c) be operable with one hand in a closed fist position, without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist.

DRAFT General Regulation under the *Accessibility Act*

Accessibility Plans

No later than April 1, 2026, Accessibility Plans required to be prepared under the Act must include a plan for addressing the availability of accessible washrooms in buildings.

Guidelines

Public Address System

In buildings where a public call system is available, the system should be capable of being zoned to specific areas of the building.

Power assisted exterior doors

Where exterior power doors are installed automatic sliding doors are preferred

Public building clearance

Organizations responsible for aspects of the built environment should ensure that measures are in place so that access to building entrances and accessible parking spaces remain free from debris, including snow, leaves, and other types of debris.

Pathways

- (1) Building interiors should have a barrier-free path of travel with accompanying signage, ensuring all users are able to easily locate and access key facilities, including, an information desk, elevators and washrooms.
- (2) Building interiors should have clear unobstructed site lines to key facilities.

Gathering Areas

In buildings accessible to the public that have areas designated for gatherings, including, but not limited to, libraries, conference facilities, and shopping areas, the following should be considered:

- (a) providing a range of adjustable lighting options, including dimmers and task lighting lamps with control switches located within an accessible reach range;
- (b) luminance (colour) contrast in the design of the space that enhance depth perception, reduce visual noise, and facilitate visual communication, orientation, and wayfinding; and
- (c) a designated quiet space.

Storage for Mobility Aids General

Where storage space for mobility aids is provided, it should be conveniently located on a barrier-free path of travel and have signage identifying the location.

Passenger Elevator Audible Signal

Elevators should have an audible signal to announce each floor.

Vision Glass

Doors in a path of travel should have vision glass to allow visual access to the other side from both seated and standing positions, except where fire safety cannot be maintained or where there is an issue of privacy.

Building Materials

Buildings should be constructed with materials that minimize mold growth, allergens, and contain low volatile organic compounds.

Colour Contrasting

Washroom accessories should be colour contrasted against adjacent surfaces.

Principles of DeafSpace

When developing new spaces intended for public gatherings, consideration should be given to the principles of DeafSpace:

- (a) **Space and proximity:** More space is needed between individuals when they are speaking in sign language;
- (b) **Sensory Reach:** Wherever possible, a room should be arranged to allow a Deaf person to have a view of 180 degrees so they can interpret visual cues in the space;
- (c) **Mobility and Proximity:** Wide *barrier-free* pathways that allow for communication in sign language while moving;
- (d) **Light and Colour:** Soft blue and green tones are preferred background colours to facilitate communicating in sign language and reduce eye strain; and
- (e) **Acoustics:** Spaces should be designed to reduce reverberation and background noise.

Storage of Accessible Recreation Equipment

When constructing a new multi-use recreation centre, consideration should be given to having sufficient storage space available for accessibility equipment (such as beach wheelchairs, hockey sledges, etc.) during periods when it is not in use.

Libraries

When public libraries are considering the placement or installation of display shelving consideration should be given to sufficient reach ranges for persons with disabilities in accordance with CSA B651, Annex A.

Aisle configurations should incorporate clear floor space of one of the following at the end of the aisles:

- a) 2100 mm in diameter, or
- b) 1700 mm wide by 1500 mm long.

Aisles should be a minimum of 1200 mm in width.

Adult Change Table

Buildings owned or operated by a public sector body that are primarily intended for public use should have at least one adult change table that aligns with section 6.3.4 of the CSA B-651 Standard.

Relief Area

Buildings intended for public use should provide a relief area for service animals.

Waste Management Systems

In residential buildings where a common space for waste management is provided, the waste management system should:

- a) be on a *barrier-free* path of travel;
- b) have an opening or lid no more than 1060 mm above the floor level;
- c) be securely fastened to the ground, post or wall.

Transit Stops

Where transit stop is located on a barrier-free path of travel it should comply with Section 8.5 of CSA B651.

Gated entry parking areas

Owners and operators of commercial parking areas with a gated entry should consider installing the following:

- (a) An emergency call button; and
- (b) a communication system that allows individuals to communicate by text, email, or alternative technology when the gate is not working.

Streetscaping

The planning process for new streetscaping should be reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the authority having jurisdiction to ensure designs are accessible and provide for a barrier-free path of travel.

Signage Accessibility

Where new signage is being provided in the built environment, such signage should comply with Section 4.6 of CSA B651 "Signage".

Community Gardens

- (1) Where community gardens are provided consideration should be given to including at least one accessible garden bed.
- (2) Where an accessible garden bed is provided it should be:
 - (a) located on a barrier-free path of travel;
 - (b) raised to enable access to the bed by a person using a wheelchair;

Building Code Amendments

Note: The *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations* below are not all new. In order to accommodate screen readers and accessibility, the new or amended portions for this section start with the text **NEW** and end with the text **END**.

Section 3.8. Accessibility

(See Note A-3.8., NBC)

3.8.1. Scope

(See Note NS-3.8.1., NSBCR)

3.8.1.1. Scope

- 1) This Section is concerned with the *barrier-free* design of *buildings*.
- 2) *Buildings* and facilities required to be *barrier-free* in accordance with Subsection 3.8.2. shall be designed in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3.

3.8.2. Application

3.8.2.1. Application and Exemptions

- 1) The requirements of this Section apply to all *buildings*, except
 - a) detached houses, semi-detached, houses with *secondary suites*, duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, row houses, boarding houses and rooming houses,
 - b) *buildings* of Group F, Division 1 *major occupancy*,
 - c) *buildings* that are not intended to be occupied on a daily or full-time basis, including automatic telephone exchanges, pumphouses and substations,
 - d) houses used as *roofed accommodation* for not more than 10 persons including the *owner* and the *owner's* family and that meets the requirements of Sentence (5),
 - e) *industrial occupancies* with an operation that are not adaptable to *barrier-free* design, and
 - f) fire, rescue, and emergency response facilities intended to house vehicles and their crews. (See Note NS-3.8.2.1.(1)(f), NSBCR)

- 2) In *roofed accommodation* one sleeping unit conforming to Article 3.8.3.25. shall be provided for **NEW** every 10 sleeping units or part thereof. **END**
 - 3) **NEW** Not less than 50% of the sleeping units required by Sentence (2) shall be provided with at least *one barrier-free* shower. **END**
 - 4) In *camping accommodation* where sleeping accommodations are provided, one sleeping unit conforming to Article 3.8.3.25. Shall be provided for every 20 sleeping units or part thereof.
 - 5) Where an *alteration* on the entrance level is made to a *dwelling unit* used as *roofed accommodation* to add sleeping accommodation, all of the following shall be provided:
 - a) one sleeping unit conforming to Article 3.8.3.25.,
 - b) a *barrier-free* entrance designed in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3.,
 - c) a *barrier-free* path of travel conforming to Article 3.8.3.2., and
 - d) one parking stall for each required sleeping unit under this Sentence conforming with Sentence 3.8.3.4.(3).
 - 6) *Buildings* described in Clause (1)(a) shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Subsection 3.8.4.
 - 7) **NEW** Except as exempted by Clause (1)(a), in a *building* with more than 3 *suites of care or residential occupancies*,
 - a) *barrier-free* units conforming to Article 3.8.3.26. shall be provided according to Table 3.8.2.1. and,
 - b) every unit complying with Clause (a) shall conform to Subsection 3.8.4. **END**
- (See Note NS-3.8.2.1.(7), NSBCR)
- 8) **NEW** The requirements of this Section take precedence over other requirements contained in this Part and Part 9.

Number of units in <i>building</i>	Minimum number of units conforming to Article 3.8.2.25.
0 to 24	0
25 to 45	1
Greater than 45	1 plus 1 unit for each additional 20 units or part thereof END

3.8.2.2. Entrances

(See Note A-3.8.2.2., NBC)

- 1) Except for service entrances, **NEW all pedestrian entrances END** to a *barrier-free storey* of a *building* referred to in Sentence 3.8.2.1.(1) shall be *barrier-free* and shall connect to a *barrier-free* exterior path of travel complying with Sentence 3.8.2.5.(1).
- 2) A *barrier-free* entrance required by Sentence (1) shall be designed in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 3) At a *barrier-free* entrance that includes more than one doorway, only one of the doorways is required to be designed in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 4) If a *walkway* or pedestrian bridge connects two *barrier-free storeys* in different *buildings*, the path of travel from one storey to the other storey by means of a *walkway* or bridge shall be *barrier-free*.
- 5) Where a principal entrance to a *building of residential occupancy* is equipped with a security door system,
 - a) both visual and audible signals shall be used to indicate when the door lock is released, and
 - b) where there are more than 20 *suites*, a closed-circuit visual monitoring system shall be provided that is capable of connection to individual *suites*.
- 6) Where a house is required to conform to the requirements of Sentence 3.8.2.1.(5), the house shall provide one *barrier-free* entrance in conformance with Sentence (1).
- 7) **NEW Except for Group B, Division 1 occupancies, vision glass or transparent doors and panels complying with Article 3.3.1.20. shall be used in entrances required by Sentence (1) to be *barrier-free* unless prohibited elsewhere by the Code. END**

3.8.2.3. Areas Requiring a Barrier-free Path of Travel

(See Note A-3.8.2.3., NBC)

- 1) Except as permitted by Sentence (2), a *barrier-free* path of travel from the entrances required by Sentences 3.8.2.2.(1) to be *barrier-free* shall be provided throughout the entrance *storey* and within all normally occupied *floor areas*.

(See Article 3.3.1.7. (Protection on Floor Areas with a *Barrier-free* Path of Travel) for additional requirements for floor areas above or below the first storey to which a *barrier-free* path of travel is required.)

- 2) A *barrier-free* path of travel for persons in wheelchairs is not required
 - a) to *service rooms*,
 - b) to elevator machine rooms,
 - c) to janitors' rooms,
 - d) to *service spaces*,
 - e) to crawl spaces,
 - f) to *attic or roof spaces*,
 - g) to the floor level above or below the entrance level in *buildings* unless the floor level above or below (see Note A-3.8.2.3.(2) (g),NBC)
 - i) is served by a passenger elevator, a platform-equipped passenger-elevating device, an escalator or an inclined moving walk,
 - ii) is 600 m² or more in *floor area*,
 - iii) contains facilities that are not contained on the entrance level, but that integral to the principal function of the entrance level, or
 - iv) **NEW** contains an assembly occupancy more than 100 m² in *floor area*,
 - h) **within a parking level with no *barrier-free* parking spaces, END**
 - i) to *high-hazard industrial occupancies*,
 - j) within portions of a *floor area* with fixed seats in an *assembly occupancy* where those portions are not part of the *barrier-free* path of travel to spaces designated for wheelchair use,
 - k) within floor levels of a *suite of residential occupancy* that are not at the same level as the entry level to the *suite*, or
 - l) within a *suite of care or residential occupancy* unless required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(7) or Subsection 3.8.4.
- 3) In an *assembly occupancy*, the number of spaces designated for wheelchair use within rooms or areas with fixed seats shall conform to Table 3.8.2.3. (See also Article 3.8.3.22. for additional requirements.)
- 4) **NEW** The number of spaces designated for wheelchair use within waiting rooms or areas with fixed seats shall conform to Table 3.8.2.3. (See Note A-3.8.2.3.(4).

- 5) Except as provided in Sentence (6), in an assembly occupancy with more than 25 fixed seats, each row of seats served by two aisles shall have one adaptable seat conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. located adjacent to one of the aisles. (See Note A-3.8.2.3.(5) and (6) and 3.8.3.22.(1) and (4), NBC)
- 6) At least 5% of the adaptable seats required by Sentence (5) but no more than 20 adaptable seats shall adjoin a *barrier-free* path of travel. **END**

Table 3.8.2.3.
Designated Wheelchair Spaces
 Forming Part of Sentences 3.8.2.3.(3) and (4)

Number of Fixed Seats in Seating Area	Number of Spaces Required for Wheelchairs
NEW 2 – 99	2
100 - 499	3, plus 1 for each additional increment of 70 seats in excess of 100
500 - 1999	9, plus 1 for each additional increment of 80 seats in excess of 500
2000 - 7999	28 plus 1 for each additional increment of 95 seats in excess of 2000
Over 7999	91, plus 1 for each additional increment of 100 seats in excess of 8000 END

3.8.2.4. Access to Storeys Served by Escalators and Moving Walks

- 1) In a *building* in which an escalator or inclined moving walk provides access to any floor level, an interior *barrier-free* path of travel shall be provided to that floor level.

(See Note A-3.8.2.4.(1), NBC)

- 2) The route from the escalator or inclined moving walk to the *barrier-free* path of travel that leads from floor to floor required by Sentence (1) shall be clearly indicated by appropriate signs.

3.8.2.5. Exterior Barrier-free Paths of Travel to Building Entrances and Exterior Passenger-Loading Zones

(See Note A-3.8.2.5., NBC)

- 1) A direct exterior *barrier-free* path of travel that complies with Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided between a *barrier-free* entrance referred to in Article 3.8.2.2. and
 - a) a designated *barrier-free* parking area, where provided,
 - b) **NEW** an exterior passenger-loading zone, where provided, and
 - c) a public thoroughfare. **END**

(See Note A-3.8.2.5.(1) and (2), NBC)

- 2) In *storage garages*, a *barrier-free* path of travel that complies with Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided between each parking level with *barrier-free* parking and all other parts of the *building* required to be provided with *barrier-free* access in accordance with Subsection 3.8.2. that are served by that *storage garage*.
- 3) Exterior passenger-loading zones shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 4) Where on-site parking is provided, parking stalls for use by persons with a disability shall be provided in accordance with one of the following:
 - a) as designated by Table 3.8.2.5.,
 - b) one parking stall shall be provided for each viewing position required in assembly occupancies in Sentence 3.8.2.3.(3), or
 - c) one parking stall shall be provided for each *barrier-free* residential *suite*.

**Table 3.8.2.5.
Designated Parking Stalls
Forming Part of Sentence 3.8.2.5.(4)**

Number of Parking Stalls	Number of Designated Stalls Required for Persons with Disability
NEW 1 - 10	1
11 - 35	2
36 - 50	3
51 - 99	4
100 and greater	5 plus 1 for every 50 additional spaces provided END

- 5) Where on-site parking is provided, parking stalls for use by persons with a disability shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.

3.8.2.6. Controls

- 1) Except as required by Sentence 3.5.2.1.(3), controls for the operation of *building* services or safety devices, including electrical switches, thermostats and intercom switches, that are intended to be operated by the occupant shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.

(See Note A-3.8.2.6.(1), NBC)

3.8.2.7. Power Door Operators

- 1) Except as provided in Sentences (2) and (3) and except for doors provided with hold-open devices, doors equipped with a self-closing device shall be equipped with power door operators complying with Subsection 3.8.3. that allows persons to activate the opening of the doors in the intended direction of travel, where the doors are located
 - a) **NEW** in an entrance referred to in Article 3.8.2.2., including the interior doors of a vestibule where provided,
 - b) in a *barrier-free* path of travel, between the entrance referred to in Clause (a) and the entrance doors to *suites* or rooms served by a *public corridor* or a corridor used by the public (see Note A-3.8.2.7.(1) (b), and
 - c) in an entrance to a washroom with a *barrier-free* water closet. **END**
- 2) Only the active leaf in a multiple leaf door in a *barrier-free* path of travel need conform to the requirements of this Article.
- 3) Where more than one doorway is provided at a *barrier-free* entrance, only one of them is required to comply with this Article.
- 4) **NEW** Where doors, other than those described in Sentence (1), are equipped with power door operators, the power door operators shall be installed in conformance with Subsection 3.8.3. **END**

3.8.2.8. Plumbing Facilities

- 1) Except as permitted by Sentence (3), at each location where washrooms are provided in a *storey* to which a *barrier-free* path of travel is required in accordance with Article 3.8.2.3., at least one universal washroom complying with Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided. (See Note A-3.8.2.8.(1) to (4), NBC)
- 2) **NEW** Except as permitted by Sentence (3), where more than two water closets or a combination of more than one water closet and one urinal are provided in a washroom located in a *storey* to which a *barrier-free* path of travel is required in accordance with Article 3.8.2.3., at least one water-closet stall shall be *barrier-free* in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3. **END**
(See Note A-3.8.2.8.(1) to (4), NBC)

- 3) Washrooms located within a *suite of residential occupancy* or a *suite of care occupancy* need not conform to the requirements of Sentence (1) or (2) except where required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(7).
- 4) In a *building* in which water closets are required in accordance with Subsection 3.7.2., at least one *barrier-free* water closet shall be provided in the entrance storey, unless
 - a) a *barrier-free* path of travel is provided to *barrier-free* water closets elsewhere in the *building*, or
 - b) the water closets required by Subsection 3.7.2. are for *dwelling units* only.

(See Note A-3.8.2.8(1) to (4)., NBC).

- 5) At least one water closet stall or enclosure in a washroom required to be *barrier-free* shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 6) Where urinals are provided in a *barrier-free* washroom, at least one urinal for persons with limited mobility conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided for every 10 urinals.
- 7) **NEW** Where water closet stalls are provided in a *barrier-free* washroom, at least one stall for persons with limited mobility conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided for every 10 stalls. **END**
- 8) A *barrier-free* washroom shall be provided with a lavatory that complies with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 9) Where mirrors are provided in a *barrier-free* washroom, at least one mirror shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 10) At each location where one or more drinking fountains are provided, at least one shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 11) **NEW** At each location where one or more water-bottle filling stations are provided, at least one of them shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3. **END**
- 12) Except within a *suite of care occupancy* or a *suite of residential occupancy*, where showers are provided in a *building*, at least one shower stall in each group of showers shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3. (See Note A-3.8.2.8.(13))
- 13) **NEW** At each location where a showering facility is provided for use by the general public or customers, or as part of a common-use area for employees, at least one universal dressing and shower room conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. shall be provided. **END**
- 14) Where a bathtub or shower is installed in a *suite of residential occupancy* required to be *barrier-free*, it shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.

- 15) **NEW** In *buildings* containing Group A, Group B, Division 2 or Group E *major occupancies* where at least one of these *major occupancies* has an *occupant load* of more than 500, at least one universal washroom on the *storey* on which the main *barrier-free* entrance to the *building* is located shall incorporate an accessible change space conforming to Subsection 3.8.3. **END** (See Note A-3.8.2.8.(15), NBC)
- 16) **NEW** Where laboratory sinks are installed in classrooms, one in 20 sinks or part thereof, but not less than 1 shall conform to Subsection 3.8.3. **END**

3.8.2.9. Assistive Listening Devices

- 1) In a *building* of *assembly occupancy*, auditoria, meeting rooms and theatres with an area of more than 100 m² and **NEW all classrooms** **END** and court rooms shall be equipped with an assistive listening system complying with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 2) **NEW** In each location where information, goods or services are provided to the public at service counters in *buildings* of *assembly occupancy*, at least one of the service counters shall be equipped with
 - a) an assistive listening system or adaptive technology conforming to Subsection 3.8.3., and
 - b) an amplification system, where there is a barrier to communication such as a glass screen. **END**

(See Note A-3.8.2.9.(2), NBC)

3.8.2.10. Signs and Indicators

- 1) Signs complying with Subsection 3.8.3. shall be installed to indicate the location of
 - a) *barrier-free* entrances,
 - b) *barrier-free* washrooms,
 - c) *barrier-free* showers,
 - d) *barrier-free* elevators,
 - e) *barrier-free* parking spaces,
 - f) facilities for persons with hearing disabilities,
 - g) **NEW facilities required under Article 3.3.1.7. END**
- 2) Where a washroom is not designed to accommodate persons with physical disabilities in a storey to which a *barrier-free* path of travel is required, signs providing visual and tactile information in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3. shall be installed to indicate the location of *barrier-free* facilities.

- 3) **NEW** Except for doors that serve *service spaces* or are located within a *suite*, signs installed at or near doors shall provide the same information in both visual and tactile forms in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3.
- 4) Directional signs shall provide visual information in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3.. (See Note A-3.8.2.10.(4))
- 5) A floor plan diagram complying with Article 3.8.3.9. showing *exits, means of egress*, and facilities required under Article 3.3.1.7. shall be installed. **END**

3.8.2.11. Counters

- 1) **NEW** Where a service counter is provided, at least one section of it shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3. **END**

3.8.2.12. Telephones

- 1) In each location where one or more public telephones are installed, at least one telephone shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3.

3.8.2.13. NEW Emergency Equipment

- 1) In each location where eye wash stations or emergency showers are installed in an area where a *barrier-free* path of travel is required, they shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3. **END**

3.8.2.14. NEW Kitchen or Break rooms

- 1) Where a kitchen or break room is provided for use as part of a common-use area for employees, it shall comply with Subsection 3.8.3. **END**

3.8.3. Design

3.8.3.1. Design Standards

- 1) *Buildings* or parts thereof and facilities that are required to be *barrier-free* shall be designed in accordance with
 - a) this Subsection, or
 - b) the provisions of CSA B651, "Accessible Design for the Built Environment" listed in Table 3.8.3.1., in their entirety.

(See Note A-3.8.3.1.(1), NBC and Note NS-3.8.3.1.(1), NSBCR)

**Table 3.8.3.1.
Barrier-free Design Provisions
Forming Part of Sentence 3.8.3.1.(1)**

Barrier-free Application (Code References)	Applicable CSA B651 Provisions
Interior accessible routes (3.8.3.2.)	4.3 and 5.1
Exterior accessible routes (3.8.3.3.)	8.2.1 to 8.2.5 and 8.2.7
Parking stalls and passenger pickup areas (3.8.3.4.)	8.3.3, 9.3 and 9.5.1 to 9.5.21
Ramps	5.3 and 5.5
Doors and doorways (3.8.3.6.)	5.2
Passenger-elevating devices (3.8.3.7.)	5.6.2
Operating controls (3.8.3.8.)	4.2
Signage (3.8.3.9.)	4.5 and 9.4
Drinking fountains (3.8.3.10.)	6.1
NEW Water-Bottle Filling Stations (3.8.3.11.)	See Note 3 END
Washroom facilities (3.8.3.12. to 3.8.3.16.)	6.2 and 6.3
Bathing facilities (3.8.3.17. to 3.8.3.18)	6.5
Communication (3.8.3.19. and 3.8.3.21.)	6.6
Counters (3.8.3.20. and 3.8.3.21.)	6.7.1
Spaces in seating area (3.8.3.22.)	6.7.2
NEW Emergency equipment and laboratory sinks (3.8.3.23.)	See Note 4 7.4.4.2 to 7.4.4.4
Kitchen and break rooms (3.8.3.24.)	7.4.4.1 to 7.4.4.4 END
Sleeping units in roofed accommodation (3.8.3.25.)	6.2.5, 6.2.6.4, 7.4.32, 7.4.5, 7.4.6.3, 7.4.6.4
Suites of care and residential occupancies to be barrier-free (3.8.3.26.)	7.4.1.5.2, 7.4.2.1, 7.4.3, 7.4.4,1 to 7.4.4.4, 7.4.4.9, 7.4.5, 7.4.6.3, 7.4.6.4

Note 1. Clause 3.8.3.4.(3)(e), NSBCR must be complied with as well

Note 2. Grab bar requirements for water closets, showers and bathtubs are required to be met (Clauses 6.2.5 and 6.2.6.4).

NEW Note 3. Water-bottle filling stations must comply with the NSBCR where installed if using the CSA standard for the design

Note 4. Emergency equipment (emergency showers and eye wash stations) must comply with the NSBCR where installed if using the CSA standard for the design END

3.8.3.2. Barrier-free Path of Travel

- 1) Except as required elsewhere in this Part or as permitted by Sentence (2) and Article 3.8.3.6. pertaining to doorways, the clear width of a *barrier-free* path of travel shall be not less than **NEW 1000 mm END**.
- 2) **NEW** The clear width of a *barrier-free* path of travel is permitted to be reduced to not less than 850 mm for length of not more 600 mm, provided the clear floor space at either end of the reduced-clear width section is level within a rectangular area
 - a) whose dimension parallel to each end of the reduced-clear width section is not less than 1000 mm, and
 - b) whose dimension perpendicular to each end of the reduced-clear width section is not less than 1500 mm. **END**

(See Note A-3.8.3.2.(2), NBC)

- 3) Interior and exterior walking surfaces that are within a *barrier-free* path of travel shall
 - a) have no opening that will permit the passage of a sphere more than 13 mm in diameter,
 - b) have any elongated openings oriented approximately perpendicular to the direction of travel,
 - c) be stable, firm and slip-resistant,
 - d) have a cross slope no steeper than 1 in 50,
 - e) be bevelled at a maximum slope of 1 in 2 at changes in level between 6 mm and 13 mm, and
 - f) be provided with sloped floors or ramps at changes in level more than 13 mm.

(See Note A-3.8.3.2.(3), NBC)

- 4) A *barrier-free* path of travel is permitted to include ramps, passenger elevators, or passenger-elevating devices to overcome a difference in level.
- 5) The width of a *barrier-free* path of travel that is more than 24 m long shall be increased to not less than **NEW 1750 mm for a length of 1750 mm END** at intervals not exceeding **NEW 24 m. END**

- 6) **NEW** Where a section of *barrier-free* path of travel is less than 1500 mm wide for a distance of more than 12 m, it shall end in a clear floor space that is
 - a) not less than 1700 mm in diameter,
 - b) not less than 1700 mm by 1500 mm, or
 - c) T-shaped with overall dimensions measuring 1700 mm wide by 1500 mm long, where the two arms of the “T” are not less than 1000 mm wide and extend not less than 300 mm from each side of the base of the “T” and the base is not less than 1000 mm wide and extends not less than 500 mm from each arm. **END**

(See Note A-3.8.3.2.(6), NBC)

3.8.3.3. Exterior Walks

- 1) Exterior walks that form part of a *barrier-free* path of travel shall
 - a) have a slip-resistant, continuous and even surface,
 - b) be not less than **NEW 1600 mm END** wide,
 - c) have a level area conforming to Clause 3.8.3.5.(1)(c) adjacent to each entrance doorway, and
 - d) **NEW** be designed in accordance with Clause 8.2.1 of CSA B651, “Accessible design for the built environment.” **END**

3.8.3.4. Parking Stalls and Exterior Passenger-Loading Zones

- 1) If an exterior passenger-loading zone is provided, it shall have
 - a) an access aisle not less than 1500 mm wide and 6000 mm long adjacent and parallel to the vehicle pull-up space,
 - b) a curb ramp complying with Sentence (2), where there are curbs between the access aisle and the vehicle pull-up space, and
 - c) a clear height of not less than **NEW 3000 mm END** at the pull-up space and along the vehicle access and egress routes.
- 2) Where a curb ramp is installed, it shall have
 - a) a minimum width of **NEW 1500 mm, END**
 - b) a maximum slope of
 - i) 1 in 12 when the vertical rise is between 75 mm and 200 mm, or
 - ii) **NEW 1 in 10** when the vertical rise is less than 75 mm,

- c) have a surface including flared sides that shall
 - i) be slip-resistant,
 - ii) have a detectable warning surface that complies with Sentence 3.3.1.19.(1) and,
 - iii) have a smooth transition from the ramp and adjacent surfaces and
- d) have flared sides with a slope of not more than 1 in 10 where pedestrians are likely to walk across them. **END**

(See Note NS-3.8.3.4., NSBCR)

- 3) Parking stalls for use by persons with physical disabilities shall
 - a) be not less than **NEW 2600 mm wide END** and provided on one side with an access aisle not less than **NEW 2000 mm wide END** (if more than one parking space is provided for persons with physical disabilities, a single access aisle can serve 2 adjacent parking stalls), and parallel parking stalls shall be not less **NEW than 7500 mm long, END**
 - b) have a firm, slip-resistant and level surface of asphalt, concrete or compacted gravel,
 - c) be located close to an entrance required to conform to Article 3.8.2.2., but not exceeding 50 m from the entrance,
 - d) be clearly marked as being for the use of persons with physical disabilities, and
 - e) be identified by a sign located not less than 1500 mm above ground level in conformance with the regulations respecting traffic signs made under the *Motor Vehicle Act* (Nova Scotia).

3.8.3.5. Ramps

- 1) A *ramp* located in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall
 - a) have a clear width of not less than **NEW 1000 mm, END**
(See Note A-3.4.3.4., NBC)
 - b) have a slope not more than 1 in 12,
(See Note A-3.8.3.5.(1)(b), NBC)

- c) have a level area not less than **NEW 1700 by 1700 mm END** at the top and bottom and at intermediate levels of a ramp leading to a door, so that on the latch side the level area extends not less than
 - i) 600 mm beyond the edge of the door opening where the door opens towards the *ramp*, or
 - ii) 300 mm beyond the edge of the door opening where the door opens away from the *ramp*,

(See Note A-3.8.3.5.(1)(c), NBC)

- d) have a level area not less than **NEW 1500 mm long END** and at least the same width as the ramp
 - i) at intervals not more than 9 m along its length, and
 - ii) where there is an abrupt change in the direction of the ramp,
 - e) except as provided in Sentences (2) and (3), be equipped with handrails conforming to Article 3.4.6.5., except that they shall be not less than 865 mm and not more than 965 mm high, and
 - f) be equipped with *guards* conforming to Article 3.4.6.6.
- 2) Handrails installed in addition to required handrails need not comply with the height requirements stated in Clause (1)(e).
 - 3) The requirement for handrails in Clause (1)(e) need not apply to a *ramp* serving as an aisle for fixed seating.
 - 4) The surfaces of *ramps* and landings shall
 - a) be hard or resilient where the ramp is steeper than 1 in 15(See Note A-3.8.3.5.(4)(a), NBC),
 - b) have a cross slope no steeper than 1 in 50, and
 - c) where exposed to water, be designed to drain.
 - 5) Ramps and landings not at *grade* or adjacent to a wall shall have edge protection consisting of
 - a) a curb not less than 75 mm high, or
 - b) a raised barrier or rail located not more than 100 mm from the *ramp* or landing surface.

3.8.3.6. Doorways and Doors

- 1) Except where stated otherwise, this Article applies to swinging and sliding doors.
- 2) Every doorway that is located in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall have a clear width not less than **NEW 850 mm when END** the door is in the open position.

(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(2), NBC)

- 3) Doorways in a path of travel to and into at least one bathroom within a *suite* of care or residential occupancy shall have a clear width of not less than **NEW 850 mm END** when the door is in the open position.

(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(3), NBC)

- 4) Door-operating devices shall
 - a) comply with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b), and
 - b) be operable at a height between 900 mm and 1100 mm above the floor.

(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(4), NBC)

- 5) A threshold for a doorway referred to in Sentences (2) or (3) shall be not more than 13 mm higher than the finished floor surface and shall be bevelled to facilitate the passage of wheelchairs.
- 6) Where power door operators are installed, they shall
 - a) activate automatically or through the use of controls that
 - i) are located in a *barrier-free* path of travel,
 - ii) are marked with the International Symbol of Access,
 - iii) are located clear of the door swing and no more than 1500 mm from the door swing,
 - iv) comply with Subclause 3.8.3.8.(1)(a)(iii),
 - v) are operable from a height between 150 mm and 300 mm as well as between 900 mm and 1100 mm above the floor, and
 - vi) are operable by touching or approaching any part of their surface with a fist, arm or foot, and
 - b) unless equipped with safety sensors,
 - i) fully open the door in not less than 3 s,
 - ii) require a force not more than 65 N to stop movement of the door, and
 - iii) **NEW remain open for a minimum of 10 s. END**

(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(6) and (7), NBC)

- 7) A cane-detectable *guard* shall be installed on the hinged side of power-assisted doors that swing open into the path of travel.

(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(6) and (7), NBC)

- 8) Except as provided in Sentence (9) and except for a door with a power door operator complying with Sentence (6), when unlatched, a door in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall open when the force applied to the handle, push plate or latch-releasing device is not more than
 - a) 38 N in the case of an exterior swinging door,
 - b) 22 N in the case of an interior swinging door, or
 - c) 22 N in the case of a sliding door.
- 9) Sentence (8) does not apply to a door at the entrance to a *dwelling unit*, or where greater forces are required in order to close and latch the door against the prevailing difference in air pressure on opposite sides of the door. (See Note A-3.8.3.6.(9), NBC)
- 10) Except for a door at the entrance to a *dwelling unit*, a closer for an interior door in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall have a closing period of not less than 3 s measured from when the door is in an open position of 70° to the doorway, to when the door reaches a point 75 mm from the closed position, measured from the leading edge of the latch side of the door.

(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(10), NBC)

- 11) Unless equipped with a power door operator complying with Sentence (6), a swinging door in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall have a clear space on the latch side extending the height of the doorway and not less than
 - a) 600 mm beyond the edge of the door opening if the door swings toward the approach side, and
 - b) 300 mm beyond the edge of the door opening if the door swings away from the approach side.

(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(11), NBC)

- 12) A vestibule located in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall be arranged to allow the movement of wheelchairs between doors and shall provide a distance between 2 doors in series of not less than **NEW 1350 mm plus END** the width of any door that swings into the space in the path of travel from one door to another.
- 13) Only the active leaf in a multiple-leaf door in a *barrier-free* path of travel need conform to the requirements of this Article.

- 14) Except as provided in Clause 3.8.3.5.(1)(c) and Sentence (16), the clear floor space on the pull side of a swinging door in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall be level within a rectangular area of not less **NEW than 1700 mm by 1500 mm END** measured from the hinged side of the door. (See Note A-3.8.3.6.(14), NBC)
- 15) Except as provided in Clause 3.8.3.5.(1)(c) and Sentence (16), the clear floor space on the push side of a swinging door and on each side of a sliding door in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall be level within a rectangular area
 - a) whose dimension parallel to the closed door is not less than 1200 mm, and
 - b) whose dimension perpendicular to the closed door is not less than 1500 mm.(See Note A-3.8.3.6.(14) to (16), NBC)
- 16) Where a door referred to in Sentences (14) and (15) is equipped with a power door operator complying with Sentence (6), the width of the clear floor space parallel to the closed door is permitted to be reduced to not less than 1000 mm. (See Note A-3.8.3.6.(14) to (16), NBC)
- 17) Where a power door operator is required, at least one leaf in each set of doors in the *barrier-free* path of travel through a vestibule shall meet the requirements.
(See Note A-3.4.6.11.(4), NBC)
- 18) **NEW** Except for Group B, Division 1 *occupancies*, glass or transparent doors or doors with vision glass complying with Article 3.3.1.20. Shall be used in *barrier-free* entrances required by Sentence 3.8.2.2.(1). **END**

3.8.3.7. Passenger-Elevating Devices

- 1) A passenger-elevating device referred to in Article 3.8.2.3. located in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall
 - a) shall conform to CSA B355, "Platform lifts and stair lifts for *barrier-free* access",
 - b) **NEW** have a clear floor space not less than 1500 mm long by 1000 mm wide, and
 - c) have entry doors or gates
 - i) providing a clear with not less than 850 mm in the open position if located on the short side of the passenger-elevating device, or
 - ii) providing a clear width not less than 1000 mm in the open position if located at either end of the long side of the passenger-elevating device. **END**

3.8.3.8. Controls

- 1) Controls described in this Section shall
 - a) where located in a storey where a *barrier-free* path of travel is required and unless otherwise stated,
 - i) be in or adjacent to the *barrier-free* path of travel,
 - ii) be mounted 400 mm to 1200 mm above the floor, and
 - iii) be adjacent to and centred on either the length or the width of a clear space of 1350 mm by 800 mm,
 - b) be operable
 - i) with one hand in a closed fist position, without requiring tight grasping, pinching with fingers or twisting of the wrist, and
 - ii) unless otherwise stated, with a force not more than 22 N and
 - c) **NEW** where controls provide a feedback signal to the user, it shall be both audible and visible. **END** (See Note A-3.8.3.8.(1)(c), NBC)

3.8.3.9. Accessible Signs

- 1) **NEW** Visual information signs required by Subsections 3.4.5. and 3.4.6. and Article 3.8.2.10. shall comply with Clauses 4.5.2, 4.5.3 and 4.5.4 of CSA B651, "Accessible design for the built environment." **END**
(See Note A-3.8.3.9.(1) and (2), NBC)
- 2) **NEW** Except as provided in Sentence (4), tactile information signs required by Subsections 3.4.5. and 3.4.6. and Article 3.8.2.10. shall
 - a) have Braille and tactile characters in accordance with Clauses 4.5.6.2 and 4.5.6.3 of CSA B651, "Accessible design for the built environment,"
 - b) be installed on the wall closest to the latch side of the door or on the nearest wall on the right side of the door, where there is no wall at the latch side, and
 - c) be centred 1500 mm above the finished floor with the edge of the sign located not more than 300 mm from the door.

(See Note A-3.8.3.9.(3), NBC)

- 3) Signs required by Article 3.8.2.10. shall incorporate the International Symbol of Access or the International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss and appropriate graphical or textual information that clearly indicates the type of facilities available.

- 4) The floor plan diagram required by Sentence 3.8.2.10.(5) shall
 - a) be installed between 900 mm and 1100 mm above the finish floor measured to the highest point of the diagram,
 - b) have a clear floor space of 800 mm by 1350 mm in front of the floor plan diagram,
 - c) be installed near the elevators or in a central location where elevators are not installed,
 - d) incorporate appropriate tactile, graphical or textual information indicating the location of all provided facilities, and
 - e) be colour contrasted with the background. **END**

3.8.3.10. Drinking Fountains

- 1) Drinking fountains required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(10) shall be equipped with controls that
 - a) activate automatically, or
 - b) comply with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b) and are located on the front or on both sides of the fountain.
- 2) Where drinking fountains referred to in Sentence (1) are located in a *storey* where a *barrier-free* path of travel is required, they shall
 - a) be located along the *barrier-free* path of travel,
 - b) have a minimum clear floor space of 800 mm by 1350 mm in front of them,
 - c) where they have frontal access, provide a knee clearance in accordance with Clause 3.8.3.16.(1)(e), and
 - d) have a spout that
 - i) is located near the front of the unit, at a height between 750 mm and 915 mm above the floor, and
 - ii) directs water flow in a trajectory that is nearly parallel to the front of the unit, at a height not less than 100 mm.

(See Sentences 3.3.1.8.(2) and (3), NBC, on horizontal projections.)

3.8.3.11. **NEW Water-Bottle Filling Stations**

- 1) Water-bottle filling stations required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(11) shall be equipped with controls that
 - a) activate automatically, or
 - b) comply with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b).
- 2) Water-bottle filling stations required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(11) that are located in a storey where a barrier-free path of travel is required shall
 - a) be located along the barrier-free path of travel,
 - b) have a clear floor space of 800 mm by 1350 mm in front of them (See Note A-3.8.3.11.(2)(b) and (d), NBC),
 - c) where they have frontal access, provide a knee clearance in accordance with Clause 3.8.3.16.(1)(e), and
 - d) be operable at a height of not more than 1200 mm above the floor. (See Note A-3.8.3.11.(2)(b) and (d), NBC) **END**

(See Sentences 3.3.1.8.(2) and (3), NBC, on horizontal projections)

3.8.3.12. **Accessible Water Closet Stalls**

- 1) Water closet stalls and enclosures required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(5) shall
 - a) be not less than 1500 mm wide by 1500 mm deep,
 - b) have a clear lateral transfer space adjacent to the water closet that
 - i) is at least 1500 mm long, measured from the wall behind the water closet, and
 - ii) is at least 900 mm wide, measured from the closest edge of the water closet seat,

(See Note A-3.8.3.12.(1)(b), NBC)

- c) have a clear floor space of **NEW 1700 mm by 1700 mm END** in front of the accessible stall,
- d) be equipped with a door that
 - i) can be latched from the inside with a mechanism located 900 mm to 1100 mm above the floor that conforms to Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b),
 - ii) is aligned with either the transfer space adjacent to the water closet or with a clear floor space not less than **NEW 1700 mm by 1700 mm END** within the stall,

- iii) provides a clear opening not less than 850 mm wide when it is open,
- iv) is self-closing so that, when at rest, the door is ajar by not more than 50 mm beyond the jamb,
- v) swings outward, unless there is sufficient floor space within the stall for the door to swing inward in addition to a clear floor space of at least 800 mm by 1350 mm,

(See Note A-3.8.3.12.(1)(d)(v), NBC)

- vi) where the door swings outward, is provided with a horizontal, D-shaped, visually contrasting door pull not less than 140 mm long, located on the inside such that its midpoint is 200 mm to 300 mm from the hinged side of the door and 800 mm to 1000 mm above the floor, and

(See Note A-3.8.3.12.(1)(d)(vi), NBC)

- vii) is provided with a horizontal, D-shaped, visually contrasting door pull not less than 140 mm long located on the outside such that its midpoint is 120 mm to 220 mm from the latch side and 800 mm to 1000 mm above the floor,

- e) have a water closet located so that the distance between the centre line of the fixture and the wall on one side is 460 mm to 480 mm,

- f) be equipped with an L-shaped grab bar that

- i) is mounted on the side wall closest to the water closet,
- ii) has horizontal and vertical components not less than 760 mm long mounted with the horizontal component 750 mm to 850 mm above the floor and the vertical component 150 mm in front of the water closet, and

(See Note A-3.8.3.11.(1)(f)(ii), NBC)

- iii) complies with Article 3.7.2.7.,

- g) be equipped with either one grab bar at least 600 mm long centred over the water closet, or 2 grab bars at least 300 mm long and located either side of the flush valve that,

- i) conform to Article 3.7.2.7.,
- ii) are mounted on the rear wall, and
- iii) are mounted at the same height as the grab bar on the side wall or 100 mm above the top of the attached water tank, if applicable,

- h) be equipped with a coat hook mounted not more than 1200 mm above the floor on a side wall and projecting not more than 50 mm from the wall, and
- i) be equipped with a toilet paper dispenser mounted on the side wall closest to the water closet such that,
 - i) the bottom of the dispenser is 600 mm to 800 mm above the floor, and
 - ii) the closest edge of the dispenser is 300 mm from the front of the water closet.

3.8.3.13. Universal Washrooms

(See Note A-3.8.3.13., NBC)

- 1) A universal washroom shall
 - a) be served by a *barrier-free* path of travel,
 - b) have a door complying with Article 3.8.3.6. that
 - i) has a latch-operating mechanism located 900 mm to 1100 mm above the floor that complies with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b) and is capable of being locked from the inside and released from the outside in case of emergency, and
 - ii) if it is an outward swinging door that is not self-closing, has a door pull not less than 140 mm long located on the inside so that its midpoint is not less than 200 mm and not more than 300 mm from the hinged side of the door and not less than 900 mm and not more than 1100 mm above the floor, and

(See Note A-3.8.3.12.(1)(d)(vi), NBC)

- c) have one lavatory conforming to Article 3.8.3.16.,
- d) have one water closet conforming to Article 3.8.3.14. and Clause 3.8.3.12.(1)(e),
- e) have a clear lateral transfer space adjacent to the water closet that conforms to Clause 3.8.3.12.(1)(b),
- f) have grab bars conforming to Clauses 3.8.3.12.(1)(f) and (g),
- g) have a coat hook conforming to Clause 3.8.3.12.(1)(h),
- h) have a toilet paper dispenser conforming to Clause 3.8.3.12.(1)(i),
- i) unless a counter is provided, have a shelf located not more than 1200 mm above the floor, and
- j) be designed to permit a wheelchair to turn in an open space not less than 1700 mm in diameter.

- 2) **NEW** A universal washroom required to have an accessible changing space as stipulated in Sentence 3.8.2.8.(15) shall
 - a) be equipped with an adult-sized change table,
 - b) have a clear floor space to accommodate the adult-sized change table that is 810 mm wide by 1830 mm long and does not overlap with the clear spaces required by Clauses (1)(e), (1)(j) and (c), and
 - c) have a clear transfer space of 900 mm by 1350 mm adjacent to the long side of the clear floor space for the adult-sized change table. **END**

3.8.3.14. Water Closets

(See Note NS-3.8.3.14., NSBCR)

- 1) A water closet for a person with physical disabilities shall
 - a) be equipped with a seat located 430 mm to 460 mm above the floor,
 - b) flush automatically or be equipped with a flushing control that
 - i) is located 500 mm to 900 mm above the floor,
 - ii) is located no more than 350 mm from the transfer side, and
 - iii) complies with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b),
 - c) be equipped with a seat lid or other back support, and
 - d) where it has a tank, have a securely attached tank top.

(See Note A-3.8.3.14.(1), NBC)

3.8.3.15. NEW Water Closet Stalls and Urinals for Persons with Limited Mobility

(See Note NS-3.8.3.14. NSBCR)

- 1) Water closet stalls for persons with limited mobility required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(7) shall
 - a) be at least 1500 mm deep and 890 to 940 mm wide,
 - b) be equipped with a door that
 - i) has a latch-operating mechanism conforming to Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b) that can be locked from the inside and released from the outside in the event of an emergency,
 - ii) provides a clear opening not less than 850 mm wide when it is open,
 - iii) swings outward, unless the minimum dimensions required by Clause (a) do not overlap with the area of the door swing,

- iv) is self-closing so that, when at rest, the door is ajar by not more than 50 mm beyond the jamb, and
 - v) has a door pull on both sides of the door, near the latch side, located 900 mm to 1100 mm above the finish floor,
 - c) have on water closet conforming to Article 3.8.3.14. centred within the stall,
 - d) have a horizontal grab bar conforming to Article 3.7.2.7. on each side of the water closet that
 - i) is located 750 mm to 850 mm above the floor,
 - ii) begins not more than 300 mm from the wall behind the water closet, and
 - iii) extends at least 450 mm in front of the toilet seat, and
 - e) be equipped with a coat hook mounted not more than 1200 mm above the floor on a side wall and projecting not more than 50 mm from the wall **END**.
- 2) Urinals described in Sentence 3.8.2.8.(6) shall
- a) be wall-mounted, with the opening of the basin located not more than 430 mm above the floor,
 - b) be adjacent to an accessible route,
 - c) have a clear width of approach of 800 mm wide by **NEW 1350 mm long END** centred on the urinal and unobstructed by privacy screens,
 - d) have no step in front of it,
 - e) have a flush valve that
 - i) is automatic, or
 - ii) complies with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b) and is located 900 mm to 1100 mm above the floor, and
 - f) have a vertically mounted grab bar installed on each side that
 - i) complies with Article 3.7.2.7.,
 - ii) is not less than 600 mm long, with its centre line 1000 mm above the floor, and
 - iii) is located not more than 380 mm from the centre line of the urinal.

3.8.3.16. Lavatories and Mirrors

- 1) Lavatories required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(8) shall
 - a) be equipped with faucets complying with Sentence 3.7.2.3.(4),
 - b) be located so that the distance between the centre line of the lavatory and any side wall is not less than 460 mm,
 - c) have a clear floor space in front of the lavatory that is at least
 - i) 800 mm wide, centred on the lavatory, and
 - ii) 1350 mm long, of which no more than 430 mm is beneath the lavatory,
 - d) have a rim height not more than 865 mm above the floor,
 - e) have a clearance beneath the lavatory not less than
 - i) 800 mm wide,
 - ii) 735 mm high at the front edge
 - iii) 685 mm high at a point 200 mm back from the front edge, and
 - iv) 230 mm high over the distance from a point 280 mm to a point 430 mm back from the front edge,

(See Note A-3.8.3.16.(1)(e), NBC)

 - f) have insulated water supply and drain pipes where these pipes are exposed,

(See Note A-3.8.3.16.(1)(f), NBC)

 - g) have a soap dispenser that
 - i) is automatic, or
 - ii) complies with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b) and is located not more than 1100 mm above the floor within 500 mm from the front of the lavatory, and

(See Note A-3.8.3.16.(1)(g), NBC)

 - h) have a towel dispenser or other hand-drying equipment located close to the lavatory, not more than 1200 mm above the floor in an area that is accessible to persons in wheelchairs.
- 2) Mirrors required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(9) shall be
 - a) mounted with their bottom edge not more than 1100 mm above the floor, or
 - b) fixed in an inclined position so as to be usable by a person in a wheelchair.

3.8.3.17. Showers

- 1) Showers required by Subsection 3.8.2. to be *barrier-free* shall
 - a) be not less than 1500 mm wide and 900 mm deep,
 - b) have a clear floor space at the entrance to the shower that is not less than 900 mm deep and the same width as the shower, except that fixtures are permitted to project into that space provided they do not restrict access to the shower,

(See Note A-3.8.3.17.(1)(b), NBC)

- c) have no doors or curtains that obstruct the controls or clear floor space at the entrance to the shower,
- d) have a slip-resistant floor surface,
- e) have a threshold not more than 13 mm higher than the finished floor, and where it is higher than 6 mm, bevelled to a slope no steeper than 1 in 2 (50%),
- f) have 2 grab bars that
 - i) conform to Sentence 3.7.2.7.(1),
 - ii) one of which is not less than 1000 mm long and located vertically on the side wall 50 mm to 80 mm from the adjacent clear floor space, with its lower end 600 mm to 650 mm above the floor, and
 - iii) one of which is L-shaped and located on the wall opposite the entrance to the shower, with a horizontal member not less than 1000 mm long mounted 750 mm to 870 mm above the floor and a vertical member not less than 750 mm long mounted 400 mm to 500 mm from the side wall on which the other vertical grab bar is mounted,

(See Note A-3.8.3.17.(1)(f), NBC)

- g) have a hinged seat that is not spring loaded, or a fixed seat with a smooth slip-resistant surface and no rough edges, the seat being
 - i) not less than 450 mm wide and 400 mm deep,
 - ii) mounted on the same side wall as the vertical grab bar, at 460 mm to 480 mm above the floor, and
 - iii) designed to carry a minimum load of 1.3 kN,

- h) have a pressure-equalizing or thermostatic-mixing valve that
 - i) complies with Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b),
 - ii) are mounted on the wall opposite the entrance to the shower at not more than 1200 mm above the floor and within reach of the seat,
 - i) have a hand-held shower head with not less than 1800 mm of flexible hose located so that it
 - i) can be reached from the seated position,
 - ii) can be used in a fixed position at a height of 1200 mm and 2030 mm, and
 - iii) does not obstruct the use of the grab bars, and
 - j) have recessed soap holders that can be reached from a seated position.
- 2) **NEW** A universal dressing and shower room required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(13) shall
- a) be located in a barrier-free path of travel,
 - b) have a door capable of being locked from the inside and released from the outside in the event of an emergency.
 - c) have a lavatory and a mirror conforming to Article 3.8.3.16.,
 - d) have a shower conforming to Sentence (1),
 - e) have a bench that is at least 1830 mm long by 760 mm wide and 480 mm to 520 mm high,
 - f) have a clear transfer space adjacent to the long side of the bench that is 900 mm wide and as long as the bench (See Note A-3.8.3.17.(2)(f), NBC), and
 - g) have a coat hook conforming to Clause 3.8.3.12.(1)(h). **END**
- 3) If individual shower stalls are provided for use by residents and patients in *buildings* of Group B, Division 2, 3 or 4, *care, treatment* or *home-type care occupancies*, they shall conform to the requirements of Sentence (1) except where
- a) common showers are provided in conformance with Sentence (1), or
 - b) common bath tubs equipped with hoist mechanisms to accommodate residents and patients are available.

3.8.3.18. Accessible Bathtubs

- 1) Bathtubs required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(14) shall
 - a) be located in a room with a clear floor space not less than **NEW 1700 mm END** in diameter,
 - b) be not less than 1500 mm long,
 - c) have a clear floor space not less **NEW than 900 mm END** wide adjacent to its entire length,
 - d) be capable of being accessed along its full length with no tracks mounted on its rim,
 - e) have faucets or other controls that
 - i) conform to Clause 3.8.3.8.(1)(b), and
 - ii) are located on the centre line or between the centre line of the bathtub and the exterior edge of the bathtub rim, at a maximum height of 450 mm above the rim,
 - f) have 3 grab bars
 - i) that conform to Sentence 3.7.2.7.(1),
 - ii) that are not less than 1200 mm long,
 - iii) 2 of which are located vertically at each end of the bathtub, set 80 mm to 120 mm in from the outside edge of the bathtub, with their lower end 180 mm to 280 mm above the bathtub rim, and
 - iv) one of which is located horizontally along the length of the bathtub at 180 mm to 280 mm above the bathtub rim,
 - g) have a slip-resistant bottom surface, and
 - h) be equipped with a hand-held shower head with not less than 1800 mm of flexible hose that can be used in a fixed position at a height of 1200 mm to 2030 mm.

3.8.3.19. Assistive Listening Devices

(See Note A-3.8.3.19, NBC)

- 1) Assistive listening systems required by Sentence 3.8.2.9.(1) shall encompass the entire seating **NEW area. END**
- 2) **NEW Assistive listening systems or adaptive technologies required by Sentence 3.8.2.9.(2) shall provide for the clear communication required for the exchange of information, goods or services. END**

3.8.3.20. Counters

- 1) A section of a service counter required to be *barrier-free* in accordance with Sentence 3.8.2.11.(1) shall
 - a) be not less **NEW than 800 mm END** long centred over a knee space conforming to Clause (c),
 - b) a surface not more than 865 mm above the floor, and
 - c) where forward-facing interaction with a person or a device is required, have a knee space underneath it that is (See Note A-3.8.3.20.(1) (c), NBC)
 - i) not less **NEW than 800 mm END** wide,
 - ii) not less than 685 mm high, and
 - iii) not less than 485 mm deep.
- 2) A counter that is used in a cafeteria, grocery store checkout or one that performs a similar function whereat movement takes place parallel to the counter, need not provide a knee space underneath it.

3.8.3.21. Telephones and TTY/TTD Telephone Services

- 1) A telephone required to be *barrier-free* in accordance with Article 3.8.2.12. shall
 - a) be adjacent to and centred on either the length or the width of a clear floor space not less than 1350 mm by 800 mm,
 - b) where a forward approach is provided, have a knee space underneath it conforming to Clause 3.8.3.20.(1)(c), and
 - c) be located so that its receiver and operable parts are not more than 1200 mm above the floor.
- 2) Where provided, shelves or counters for public telephones shall
 - a) be level,
 - b) be not less than 305 mm deep,
 - c) have, for each telephone provided, a clear floor space not less than 250 mm wide having no obstruction within 250 mm above the surface, and
 - d) have a section with a surface not more than 865 mm above the floor serving at least one telephone.

(See Note A-3.8.3.21.(2), NBC)

- 3) Where public telephones are provided, at least one telephone shall be provided with a variable volume control on the receiver.
- 4) At least one built-in teletypewriter telephone (TTY/TTD) shall be provided and located in a publicly accessible location for all of the following:
 - a) where 4 or more public access telephones are provided, including interior and exterior locations,
 - b) where the *building area* exceeds 600 m², in a Group A, Group B, Group D or Group E *occupancy* when telephones are provided,
 - c) in a hotel or motel that
 - i) exceeds 600 m² in *building area*, or
 - ii) is required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(2) to provide a *barrier-free suite*, or
 - d) in *camping accommodation* required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(4) to provide *barrier-free suites*, unless a portable unit is available for use.

(See Note NS-3.8.3.21.(4)(d), NSBCR)
- 5) Where public telephones are provided, at least one electrical receptacle shall be provided within 500 mm of one of the public telephones.

3.8.3.22. Spaces in Seating Area

- 1) **NEW** Spaces designated for wheelchair use in assembly occupancies as required by Sentence 3.8.2.3.(3) shall conform to the following:
 - a) at least one designated space shall be clear and level for each increment of 200 seats and the remaining designated spaces shall be level and have removable seats,
 - b) they shall be not less than 900 mm wide and 1700 mm long to permit a wheelchair to enter from a side approach and 1350 mm long where the wheelchair enters from the front or rear of the space,
 - c) they shall be arranged so that
 - i) at least 2 designated spaces are side by side, and
 - ii) at least one fixed seat is located beside each designated space,
 - d) they shall be located adjoining a *barrier-free* path of travel without infringing on egress from any row of seating or any aisle requirements, and
 - e) they shall be situated, as part of the designated seating plan, to provide a choice of viewing location on every level with a *barrier-free* path of travel and a clear view of the event taking place.

(See Note A-3.8.2.3.(5) and (6) and 3.8.3.22.(1) and (4), NBC)

- 2) Spaces designated for wheelchair use in waiting rooms or areas as required by Sentence 3.8.2.3.(4) shall
 - a) be clear and level and
 - b) comply with Clauses (1)(b) and (d).
- 3) Adaptable seats required by Sentence 3.8.2.3.(5) shall
 - a) be located adjoining an aisle without infringing on egress from any row of seating or any aisle requirements,
 - b) be equipped with a movable or removable armrest on the side of the seat adjoining the aisle, and
 - c) be situated, as part of a the designated seating plan, to provide a choice of viewing location on every level with a *barrier-free* path of travel and a clear view of the event taking place.
- 4) Storage spaces for mobility aids shall be provided in a location
 - a) that is on the same level as and in proximity to the adaptable seats required by Sentence 3.8.2.3.(5),
 - b) that is within the room side of the fire separation required by Article 3.3.2.2., and
 - c) where they will no infringe on egress. **END**

(See Notes A-3.8.3.22.(4) and A-3.8.2.3.(5) and (6) and 3.8.3.22.(1) and (4), NBC)

3.8.3.23. NEW Emergency Equipment and Laboratory Sinks

- 1) Eye wash stations required by Sentence 3.8.2.13.(1) to be *barrier-free* shall
 - a) be located along the *barrier-free* path of travel,
 - b) have a minimum clear floor space of 800 mm wide by 1350 mm long in front of them,
 - c) provide a knee clearance as described in Clause 3.8.3.16.(1)(e),
 - d) be equipped with controls that comply with Sentence 3.8.3.8.(1),
 - e) have the spray heads located at a height between 750 mm and 915 mm above the floor.
- 2) Emergency showers required by Sentence 3.8.2.13.(1) to be *barrier-free* shall
 - a) be located along the *barrier-free* path of travel,
 - b) have a minimum clear floor space of 800 mm by 1350 mm centred under the shower, and
 - c) be equipped with controls that comply with Sentence 3.8.3.8.(1).

- 3) Laboratory sinks and counters in classrooms required by Sentence 3.8.2.8.(16) to be *barrier-free* shall be installed as follows:
- a) a minimum of 1200 mm clearance between counters and all opposing base cabinets, counter tops or walls,
 - b) the sink shall
 - i) be mounted with the rim between 810 and 860 mm above the floor,
 - ii) have a knee space at least 800 mm wide and 200 mm deep, and a toe space 800 mm wide, 230 mm deep and 230 mm high,
 - iii) have a clear floor space 800 mm wide by 1350 mm long, of which 480 mm may extend under the work surface,
 - iv) have faucets that are equipped with lever handles or automatically activate, and
 - v) have insulated hot water and drain pipes that do not abut the required clear space,
 - c) base cabinets shall have a toe space at least 150 mm deep and 230 mm high, and
 - d) any work surface provided next to the laboratory sink shall
 - i) be a minimum of 800 mm wide by 600 mm deep,
 - ii) be between 730 mm and 860 mm above the finish floor,
 - iii) have a clear floor space of at least 800 mm wide by 1350 mm long centred on the work surface, of which 480 mm may extend under the counter or work surface,
 - iv) have a knee space a minimum of 800 mm wide, 480 mm deep and 685 mm high, and
 - v) if electrical receptacles are provided, have one located on the front or side of the work surface.

3.8.3.24. Kitchens and Break Rooms

- 1) Kitchens and break rooms referred to in Sentence 3.8.2.14.(1) shall have the following:
 - a) one section of the counter shall comply with Sentence 3.8.3.20.(1) or be adjustable between a height of 735 mm and 915 mm,
 - b) have an electrical receptacle located at the front or side of the counter referred to in Clause (a),

- c) where a sink is provided, the trap arm shall be installed no higher than 305 mm to the centre line of the pipe measured from the finished floor, and
- d) a clear floor space of 800 mm by 1350 mm centred in front of each
 - i) sink,
 - ii) range,
 - iii) cooktop,
 - iv) refrigerator,
 - v) dishwasher, and
 - vii) other major appliance. **END**

3.8.3.25. Sleeping Units in Roofed Accommodations

- 1) Where sleeping unit *suites* conforming to this Article are required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(2), they shall have
 - a) sufficient space to provide a turning area of not less than **NEW 1700 mm END** diameter on one side of the bed,
 - b) sufficient space to provide clearance of not less than **NEW 1000 mm END** to allow for functional use of units by persons in wheelchairs,
 - c) an accessible balcony, where balconies are provided,
 - d) at least one closet that provides
 - i) a minimum clear opening of 900 mm,
 - ii) clothes hanger rods located at a height of no more than 1200 mm from finish floor, and
 - iii) at least one shelf located at a height between **NEW 400 mm and 1200 mm END** above finish floor,
 - e) light switches, thermostats and other controls that are specifically provided for use by the occupant mounted not more than 1200 mm above the floor,
 - f) electrical receptacles located between 400 mm and 550 mm above the finished floor,
 - g) a GFI outlet located not more than 1200 mm above the floor,

- h) an accessible bathroom that shall be designed to provide manoeuvring space up to each type of fixture required to be used by persons in a wheelchair conforming to the following:
 - i) a floor space of not less than 3.7 m² with no dimension less than 1700 mm when the door swings out and 4.0 m² with no dimension less than 1800 mm when the door swings in,
 - ii) the clear floor spaces required for the fixtures in Subclauses (v), (vi) and (vii) are permitted to overlap,
 - iii) grab bars conforming to Clauses 3.8.3.12.(1)(f) and (g),
 - iv) a coat hook conforming to Clause 3.8.3.12.(1)(h),
 - v) a water closet conforming to Article 3.8.3.14.,
 - vi) at least one lavatory and mirror conforming to Article 3.8.3.16., and
 - vii) a shower conforming to Article 3.8.3.17. or a bathtub conforming to Article 3.8.3.18.

(See Sentence 3.8.2.1.(3) for determination of minimum number of *suites* required to have *barrier-free* showers)

- i) **NEW** have a towel bar or rack located not more than 1200 mm above finish floor, located close to the lavatory, and **END**
- j) an entrance door to the *suite* that
 - i) has a lock that is operable with one hand,
 - ii) **NEW** complies with the requirements of Article 3.8.3.6. and,
 - iii) has door viewers installed at a height between 1050 mm and 1150 mm above finished floor and between 1450 mm and 1550 mm above finished floor. **END**

3.8.3.26. Suites of Care and Residential Occupancies to be Barrier-free General

- 1) Where a *suite of care* or *residential occupancy* is required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(7) to provide *barrier-free* access, it shall be served by
 - a) a entrance door to the *suite* that complies with Article 3.8.3.6.,
 - b) a *barrier-free* path of travel to, into, and throughout each required *suite* in accordance with subsection 3.8.3.,
 - c) an accessible balcony, if required, in accordance with Clause 3.3.1.7.(1)(c), and

- d) *barrier-free* controls for the operation of *building* services or safety devices, including electrical switches, thermostats and intercom switches, that are accessible to a person in a wheelchair, operable with one hand and mounted not more than 1200 mm above the floor and electrical receptacles that are located between 400 mm and 550 mm above the finished floor, except as required by Clause (3)(f) and Subclause (4)(c)(v).

Sleeping Area

- 2) Where a *suite of residential occupancy* is required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(7) to provide *barrier-free* access, it shall contain at least one sleeping area with
 - a) a minimum floor space of 12.25 m²,
 - b) at least one horizontal room dimension not less than 3.35 m, and
 - c) at least one closet that provides
 - i) a minimum clear opening of 900 mm,
 - ii) clothes hanger rods located at a height no more than 1200 mm, and
 - iii) at least one shelf located at a height between **NEW 400 mm and 1200 mm END** above finish floor.

Bathroom

- 3) Where a *suite of care or residential occupancy* is required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(7) to provide *barrier-free* access, a minimum of one accessible bathroom shall be provided with
 - a) a floor space of not less than 3.7 m² with no dimension less than 1700 mm when the door swings out and 4.0 m² with no dimension less than 1800 mm when the door swings in,
 - b) a water closet conforming to Article 3.8.3.14. And Clause 3.8.3.12.(1) (b) and (c),
 - c) a lavatory conforming to Article 3.8.3.16.,
 - d) **NEW at least one shower conforming to Article 3.8.3.17., END**
 - e) where a bathtub is provided, a bathtub conforming to Article 3.8.3.18.,
 - f) a GFI razor outlet located not more than 1200 mm above the floor, and
 - g) grab bars conforming to Clauses 3.8.3.12.(1)(f) and (g).

Kitchen

- 4) Where a *suite of care* or *residential occupancy* is required by Sentence 3.8.2.1.(7) to provide *barrier-free* access the kitchen shall have
 - a) a minimum 1200 mm clearance between counters and all opposing base cabinets, counter tops, appliances, or walls except in a U-shaped kitchen the minimum distance shall be 1500 mm,
 - b) a minimum clear floor space of **NEW 800 mm by 1350 mm END** at each
 - i) range,
 - ii) cooktop,
 - iii) oven,
 - iv) refrigerator or freezer,
 - v) dishwasher, and
 - vi) other major appliance,
 - c) a minimum of one work surface that
 - i) is 800 mm wide by 600 mm deep,
 - ii) is 730 mm to 860 mm above the floor,
 - iii) has a clear floor space of 800 mm by 1350 mm, which may extend 480 mm under the work surface,
 - iv) has a knee space a minimum of 800 mm wide, 480 mm deep and 685 mm high, and
 - v) has a minimum of one electrical receptacle located at the front or side of the work surface,
 - d) base cabinets with a minimum toe space 150 mm deep and 230 mm high,
 - e) sinks
 - i) mounted with the rim between 810 mm and 860 mm above the floor,
 - ii) with a knee space a minimum of 800 mm wide and 250 mm deep, and a toe space 800 mm wide, 230 mm deep and 230 mm high,
 - iii) with a clear floor space 800 mm by 1350 mm, which may extend 480 mm under the work surface,

- iv) with faucets equipped with lever handles or activate automatically, and
- v) with insulated hot water and drain pipes that do not abut the required clear space,
- f) where upper cabinets are provided, an upper cabinet with a minimum of one shelf not more **NEW than 1100 mm above END** the finished floor,
- g) storage cabinet doors and drawers
 - i) with handles that are easily graspable, and
 - ii) mounted at the top of base cabinets and bottom of upper cabinets,
- h) all controls in compliance with Clause (1)(d), except as required by Subclause (4)(c)(v).

3.8.4.2. Entrance Doors to Dwelling Units

- 1) All *dwelling units* shall have at least one entrance door having a clear width not less than 850 mm wide equipped with door opening hardware conforming to Sentence 3.8.4.6.(2).
- 2) Except as provided in Sentence (3), the entrance door in Sentence (1) shall have a threshold that complies with Sentence 3.8.3.6.(5).
- 3) The entrance door to a *building* described in Clause 3.8.2.1.(1)(a) shall be easily accessed and be capable of being made *barrier-free* from a sidewalk or parking area.

3.8.4.3. Interior Doors and Corridors in Dwelling Units

- 1) Doors or passageways within *dwelling units* to *habitable rooms* and *service rooms* shall have **NEW a clear width not less than 850 mm wide END** and equipped with door opening hardware conforming to Sentence 3.8.4.6.(2).

(See Note NS-3.8.4.3., NSBCR)

- 2) Where a door is installed between an attached garage and a *dwelling unit*, the door shall conform to Article 3.8.4.2.
- 3) Corridors within *dwelling units* shall have a clear width of not less than 900 mm.

3.8.4.4. Kitchens in Dwelling Units

- 1) Kitchen sinks in *dwelling units* shall be equipped with lever-type faucets or hardware conforming to Sentence 3.8.4.6.(2).
- 2) All trap arms running from P-traps under the kitchen sink shall be installed no higher than 305 mm to the centre line of the pipe measured from the finished floor.
- 3) An electrical rough-in shall be located below the counter top to allow for the installation of an electrical receptacle conforming to Subclause 3.8.3.24.(4)(c)(v).
- 4) Duplex electrical receptacles located over a kitchen counter are not required to comply with this Subsection.

3.8.4.5. Bathrooms in Dwelling Units

- 1) All lavatories in *dwelling units* shall be equipped with lever-type faucets or hardware conforming to Sentence 3.8.4.6.(2).
- 2) Wall assemblies that enclose a bathroom in a dwelling unit shall include reinforcement to accommodate the future installation of grab bars described in
 - a) Clauses 3.8.3.12.(1)(f) and (g), for a water closet,
 - b) Clause 3.8.3.18.(1)(f), for a bathtub,
 - c) Clause 3.8.3.17.(1)(f), for a shower.

(See Note NS-3.8.4.5., NSBCR)

- 3) **NEW** In *buildings* that contain more than *three suites of residential occupancy* and are more than 3 storeys in *building height*, all floors that have a *barrier-free path of travel* shall conform to Sentences (4) to (8).
- 4) There shall be at least one bathroom located on the main entry level of each *suite*.
- 5) The bathroom described in Sentence (4) shall be equipped with a minimum of
 - a) one water closet
 - i) that complies with Clauses 3.8.3.14.(1)(a) to (d), and
 - ii) is located so that the distance between the centre line of the fixture and any wall or other fixture is not less than 460 mm, and
 - b) one lavatory that complies with Clauses 3.8.3.16.(1)(a) and (b).
- 6) A clear floor space, exclusive of door swing, of not less than 800 mm by 1350 mm is required to be provided.

- 7) A clear floor space in front of the lavatory of not less than 800 mm by 1350 mm, centred on the lavatory.
- 8) The clear floor spaces required in Sentences (6) and (7) are permitted to overlap. END

3.8.4.6. Duplex Receptacles, Switches and Controls

(See Note NS-3.8.4.6., NSBCR)

- 1) Operating controls in a *dwelling unit* include, but are not limited to,
 - a) door handles and locks,
 - b) faucets and adjustable shower heads,
 - c) nonproprietary duplex electrical receptacles, telephone, cable and data outlets and wall switches,
 - d) controls for the operation of *building services*, safety devices and intercoms, and
 - e) activation devices.
- 2) Except as permitted by Sentence (3), all controls in a *dwelling unit* shall be operable
 - a) with one hand, using
 - i) a closed fist position, or
 - ii) another method of operation that does not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist, and
 - b) with a force of not more than 22 N.
- 3) A control identified in Clause (1)(a) or (b) need not meet the actual requirements in Clause (2)(a) provided that it remains possible for door hardware or a faucet, which conforms to those requirements, to be installed.
- 4) Except as provided in Sentence (5), the centre line height of the operating controls shall be located in a range between 400 mm and 1200 mm from the finished floor.
- 5) Sentence (4) does not apply where an additional or required nonproprietary duplex electrical receptacle is permitted by the electrical *authority having jurisdiction* to be mounted in a location other than a wall.

(See Note NS-3.8.4.6.(5), NSBCR)

Fire Code Amendments

Measures in a Fire Safety Plan (Fire Code Amendment, 2.8.2.1)

- 3) The fire safety plan shall include, in addition to the information required in Articles 2.8.2.2. to 2.8.2.11., as applicable, information on:
 - a) the emergency procedures to be carried out in case of fire, including
 - i) sounding the fire alarm (see Note A-2.8.2.1.(3)(a)(i)),
 - ii) notifying the fire department,
 - iii) instructing occupants on the procedures to be followed when the fire alarm sounds
 - iv) evacuating occupants, including special provisions for persons requiring assistance, and
 - v) confining, controlling and extinguishing the fire,
 - b) the appointment and organization of designated supervisory staff to carry out fire safety duties,
 - c) the training of supervisory staff and other occupants on their responsibilities as regards fire safety,
 - d) **NEW the type, location and operation of the building fire emergency systems, including diagrams, END**
 - e) the holding of fire drills,
 - f) the measures for controlling fire hazards in and around the building, and
 - g) the inspection and maintenance of building facilities provided for the safety of occupants.

Posting of Fire Emergency Procedures (Fire Code Amendment, 2.8.2.7.)

- 1) At least one copy of the fire emergency procedures **NEW for a building or part of a building END** shall be prominently posted in each floor area.
- 5) **NEW The floor plan diagram identifying the emergency exits and areas of refuge required in Sentence 3.8.2.10.(5) of Schedule "C" of the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations shall be maintained in conformance with the requirements of Sentence 3.8.3.9.(4) of the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations. END**

Government Actions

Accessible Parking Permits

Department of Public Works will continue its work to enact regulations under the *Traffic Act* that broaden the scope of regulated health professionals that have the authority to certify a person has a mobility disability.

Temporary Traffic Control Manual

The Temporary Workplace Traffic Control Manual is to be amended to require that where a section of an accessible route is affected by construction, a safe and secure alternative pedestrian route of at least 1600 mm in width is provided through or around the temporary work area.

Outdoor Spaces Education Program

Government of Nova Scotia is to explore options to develop and implement an outdoor spaces accessibility educational program with possible financial incentives to support the inclusion of accessible amenities in outdoor spaces.

Heritage Building Accessibility

Government of Nova Scotia is to explore best practices for adapting buildings with a designated heritage status.

Accessible Campsites in Provincial Parks

All existing frontcountry campgrounds owned and operated by Government will be required to have a minimum of 1 accessible campsite by April 1, 2028.

Government of Nova Scotia will further consider the feasibility and timing of an amendment to the *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations* that would require visual signaling for smoke alarms.