

Government of Nova Scotia
is sharing its proposed

Built Environment Accessibility Standard

with the public for feedback.



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Accessibility standards are an important way of preventing and removing barriers that people with disabilities encounter. The Built Environment Accessibility Standard is the first accessibility standard that is being developed for Nova Scotia. Proposed accessibility standards must be made available to the public for a minimum of 60 days to allow public comment before they are advanced for approval as regulation.

This is your opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed standard and associated work.

The proposed standard was developed by the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate using recommendations of the Accessibility Advisory Board. The recommendations were prepared by a Standard Development Committee which included persons with disabilities, representation from impacted sectors (e.g., municipalities), and subject matter experts using best practices in accessible design for the built environment. The Board's recommendations for an accessibility standard in the built environment can be found online:

<https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/built-environment/>

What is the built environment?

The built environment means 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.

What is being shared for public review?

Accessibility standards will be enacted as regulations under the *Accessibility Act*. This proposed standard are being shared with Nova Scotians for public comment.

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*.

We are also sharing associated work resulting from the standard recommendations submitted to Government. These include the following:

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

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

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

Fire Code Amendments are changes to the Nova Scotia Fire Safety Regulations

Who does the standard apply to?

The Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations will apply to Government of Nova Scotia, Prescribed Public Sector Bodies, and other organizations prescribed by the regulations.

The Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations apply to new and existing buildings in Nova Scotia that require a building permit.

The Fire Safety Regulations apply to the construction, intended use, demolition, condition, and protection of buildings and facilities to prevent fire and other hazards.

Accessibility guidelines may be adopted by any organization.

What is required and when?

Once the Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations are enacted, they become law. The target for enactment of the Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations is 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 infrastructure planning.

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.

Will I need to retrofit my existing building or space?

Updating infrastructure is crucial to becoming an accessible province. 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 will choose to go beyond the minimum requirements of the accessibility standard.

How do I provide feedback on the proposed standard?

You can comment on the proposed Built Environment Accessibility Standard and associated work at

<https://novascotia.ca/built-environment-public-review/>

If you require support to provide feedback, please contact accessibility@novascotia.ca

How will my feedback be used?

Government will review feedback and consider whether any changes should be made to the proposed standard and associated work.

Other accessibility standards are being developed to support the goal of making Nova Scotia accessible. If you would like to learn more, visit

<https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/>