



Accessibility Plan 2025-2028



EAST HANTS



Nova Scotia Accessibility Act

Requires all public sector bodies to prepare an Accessibility Plan.

- East Hants plan ‘Accessible East Hants’ was completed and approved by Council in May 2021.
- Requirement under the ‘Act’ to update the plan every three years - extension given by province so new deadline is March 31st 2025.

Steps undertaken in the review

- Review monitoring report to identify completed action items and action items to be kept in the plan.
- A public survey was created to seek feedback from the community on barriers to accessibility.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee have reviewed the monitoring report, public survey responses, comments from the CCOA, and proposed staff changes to the Plan.
- Plan will continue to be monitored every year and will need to be reviewed and updated again in 3 years.

- Existing Action Items not completed have been moved into the amended plan.
- More details added to the accessibility audit section regarding timelines to:
 - audit the building/s;
 - identify cost of removing the barriers;
 - create workplan to complete the work (remove barrier);
 - request approval of budget to complete the work;
 - complete the work.

Action items in the Plan

- New Action Items include:
 - Wayfinding signage review will include signs in municipal parks;
 - Possible locations for change tables for people with disabilities to be identified;
 - Review the public gallery of Council Chambers to enable people in wheelchair and with a visual disability to enter and move around the room;
 - Review options for making American Sign Language (ASL) available, where needed, at community meetings/events, etc.;
 - Create guidelines for holding and setting up a room for accessible public meetings or events;
 - Create a communication plan for how to reach people with disabilities during an emergency and to encourage emergency preparedness;
 - Training for staff.