

Appendix F.

The Interim Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces (available online)

The *Interim Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces* offer a way to begin identifying barriers to accessibility in the built environment. They are “interim” because they will be replaced by a provincial accessibility standard for the built environment, which was under development when this toolkit was prepared.

The guidelines are rooted in **three core principles**: a whole journey approach; universal design; and seasonal maintenance.

The guidelines focus on **four common elements** in indoor and outdoor spaces: signage and wayfinding; ramps; stairs; and handrails.

Aspects of **indoor public spaces** that are addressed include

- ▶ building entrances and approaches
- ▶ doors and doorways
- ▶ circulation
- ▶ public washrooms
- ▶ interior and exterior emergency services

Because the guidelines were designed with municipalities in mind, they include aspects of **outdoor public spaces** that are addressed include

- ▶ streets
- ▶ transit stops
- ▶ parking
- ▶ recreation and leisure, such as parks, playgrounds, and trails
- ▶ outdoor fixtures, such as waste receptacles, picnic tables, and seating

The interim guidelines reflect the highest standard set by either the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations or the Canadian Standards Association’s CSA B651-18, Accessible Design for the Built Environment. They also include recommendations from nationally recognized accessibility guides, such as the Rick Hansen Foundation’s Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Ratings Professional Handbook and the Ottawa Accessibility Design Standards.

Your organization may want to audit some of its assets to the RHFAC standard—for example, buildings that are heavily used by the public. Other assets might be audited to the Interim Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces, which are less detailed.

You can download the Interim Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces at (novascotia/accessibility).