

Nova Scotia Accessibility Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Friday, June 7, 2019, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Room A238, NSCC Institute of Technology Campus, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax

Attendance

Board: Doug Foster (Chair), Rosalind Penfound (Vice-Chair), David Caswell, Alex Peeler, Gus Reed, Kevin Russell, Marcie Shwery-Stanley, Anne Sinclair

Regrets: Barry Abbott, Cynthia Bruce

Staff: Gerry Post (Executive Director), Terri Lynn Almeda, Joshua Bates, Jessica Briand, Donna Chislett, Craig MacKinnon, Amy Middleton, Lashauna Smith

Guests: Jennifer Powley, Michelle Anderson and Edward Edelstein

1. Board Operations

a. **Review of Agenda**

The revised agenda was approved as circulated.

b. **Approval of Minutes from March 29, 2019 Meeting**

Motion: Kevin Russell moved to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2019 meeting. Alex Peeler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c. **Review Work Plan**

The Board reviewed and confirmed the agenda topics identified in the work plan for the fall meetings, noting that agenda topics could be adjusted between meetings based on availability of potential presenters. The Board also indicated interest in the topic of accessible communication technology.

Action: The Accessibility Directorate will prepare draft agendas for the fall meetings based on the work plan and availability of potential presenters.

d. **2018-2019 Annual Report**

The Board reviewed the draft 2018-2019 Annual Report and provided recommended revisions to the report.

Action: The Accessibility Directorate will work with Communications Nova Scotia to revise the draft 2018-2019 Annual Report.

2. Standard Development

a. Built Environment Standard Development Committee

Laurie Cranton, Chair, and Ramzi Kavar, Vice-Chair, Built Environment Standard Development Committee, provided an overview of the committee's work. The first meeting was held on April 29, 2019, which included the mandate, roles and timelines of the standard development process, consensus decision making and other administrative processes of the committee, and presentations on existing codes related to the built environment. The committee has established a work plan comprised of nine meetings between April 2019 and May 2020, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2019. A jurisdictional/literature review and survey consultation are under development to inform the committee's work.

b. Education Standard Development Committee

Rosalind Penfound, Chair, Education Standard Development Committee, provided an overview of the committee's work. The first meeting was held on April 15-16, 2019, which included presentations from departments and subject matter experts on the first day, and the committee terms of reference, mandate, work plan, consensus decision making model, and other administrative processes of the committee on the second day. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2019, and will include discussion on the areas of focus for the committee's recommendations. A jurisdictional review and survey consultation are under development to inform the committee's work.

3. Awareness and Communication

a. Sub-Group Report

Terri Lynn Almeda, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the report from the Board's Awareness and Communication Sub-Group's April 30, 2019 meeting. The Sub-Group discussed the communications-related activities from the December 2018 retreat. The Board agreed with the Sub-Group's recommendation that a future Accessibility Advisory Board meeting include an agenda topic on anti-bias/anti-ableism education, which would be facilitated by Cynthia Bruce. The Sub-Group also recommended that the Board review its direction regarding developing a list of public and private entities, and the Board agreed that an additional list is not needed, as the Accessibility Directorate maintains lists with this information.

The Sub-Group also provided the Board with a presentation on the Accessibility Act and its implementation that can be used by Board members in their communities.

4. Collaboration and Support

a. Accessible Housing / Independent Living

The Accessibility Advisory Board received a presentation from Jennifer Powley, Michelle Anderson and Edward Edelstein on their proposal to the Department of Community Services and Department of Health to provide independent living for persons with disabilities through a pooled attendant care model.

Action: The Accessibility Directorate will draft a letter of support for the proposal for the Board's review.

5. Board Membership – Vacancies

Terri Lynn Almeda, Accessibility Directorate, provided an update on the recruitment for the two vacancies on the Accessibility Advisory Board. Appointments will be for a three year term.

6. Accessible Canada Act

Lashauna Smith, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the federal government’s Accessible Canada Act, which will apply to organizations under federal responsibility. The Act aims to identify, remove and prevent barriers, and establishes the Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization, an Accessibility Commissioner and Chief Accessibility Officer.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.