

Accessibility Advisory Board Annual Report 2017-18

Board Mandate

In September 2017, Nova Scotia became the third Canadian province to pass accessibility legislation, committing to a more equitable and barrier-free province. The Accessibility Act recognizes accessibility as a human right, and sets a goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030.

Under the Act, an Accessibility Advisory Board was established to advise and make recommendations to the Minister about accessibility. Specifically, the Board:

- Suggests measures, policies, practices and requirements that may be implemented by the Government to achieve accessibility
- Assesses whether existing measures, policies, practices and requirements are consistent with the purpose of this Act
- Sets priorities for the establishment and content of accessibility standards and timelines for their implementation
- Sets long-term accessibility objectives for furthering the purpose of this Act
- Responds to requests for accessibility advice from the Minister

Board Membership

The first Accessibility Advisory Board was announced in February 2018. The majority of board members are persons with disabilities. Board members have expertise and experience in diverse areas of accessibility, and reside in various communities across the province.

- Douglas Foster, Chair - Sydney
- Rosalind Penfound, Vice-Chair - Dartmouth
- Barry Abbott - Halifax
- Cynthia Bruce - Kentville
- Irene Campbell-Taylor - Mahone Bay
- David Caswell - Waverley
- Amy Parsons - Halifax
- Alexander Peeler - Conquerall Bank
- Warren (Gus) Reed - Halifax
- Kevin Russell - Halifax
- Marcellina Shwery-Stanley – Sydney
- Anne Sinclair - Halifax



2017-18 Accessibility Advisory Board Members (Absent: Warren (Gus) Reed)

2017-18 Activities

After its formation in February 2018, the board held its first meeting in March 2018. An orientation was provided to board members, and the Terms of Reference was finalized. A timeline and workplan was established for the Board to develop recommendations for the accessibility implementation strategy to be released in September 2018. Meeting summaries are posted publicly on the [Accessibility Directorate website](#).

Looking Ahead to 2018-19

In the first quarter of 2018-19, the Board will develop its recommendations for *Access by Design 2030*, the province's accessibility implementation strategy to be released in September 2018.

Following the release of the strategy, the Board will turn its focus to establishing standard development committees to assist in developing the Board's recommendations for the content of the first accessibility standards. The Board will also determine its priorities and workplan for the remainder of 2018-19 and 2019-20.