



Northeast Accessibility Committee

Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Background

The Northeast Collaborative Accessibility Committee has been working together since 2023 to improve accessibility in Northeastern BC. This committee meets monthly to:

- Discuss issues affecting people with disabilities in the region.
- Inform local governments on accessibility issues and solutions.
- Identify barriers to accessibility and solutions to these barriers.
- Review and provide input on community plans and designs with an accessibility lens.
- Organize and participate in relevant community events or awareness activities.

Looking Forward: Strategic Planning for 2025-2028

In early 2025, the committee decided to create an action plan for 2025-2028. This strategy aims to:

- Identify and plan roles for the Committee such as advocacy, engagement, capacity building, education and training, and maintaining compliance with BC legislation.
- Be strategic about using time and resources.
- Clarify expectations, roles, and responsibilities of the committee.

Goals

Short-term goals (2025 – 2026)

The Committee identified several goals and priorities for the next few years:

- **Support member governments** to achieve their accessibility improvement goals by reviewing projects, providing insight and lived experience, and sharing resources.
- **Learn together** about accessibility and the role of local government in removing barriers.
- **Suggest solutions** for governments to improve accessibility.
- **Set and achieve small wins** to practice working together effectively.
- **Choose a focus area or topic** each year to guide action plans.

Long-term goals (2026 – 2028 or beyond)

Longer term goals that the committee seeks to work towards are:

- **Formalizing their role in municipalities** by being part of a referral process on major projects or projects with an accessibility component or that may benefit from an accessibility lens.
- **Have collaborative relationships** and/ or projects with Accessibility Committees from other prescribed organizations.
- **Host or attend public events to raise awareness** of accessibility issues.

Our Approaches to Accessibility and Actions

Education and Skill Building

Actions:

- Take or provide training opportunities together.
- Recommend best practices, standards and guides for member municipalities to use.

Building Relationships

Actions:

- Bring in people from municipalities to connect with us, get feedback or input on their projects, ask questions, etc.
- Building relationships with other accessibility committees in the region.

Cohesive Improvements to Infrastructure and Service Delivery

Actions:

- Review plans or documents submitted by municipalities and give recommendations for improving accessibility.
- Review local government activities to identify ways to improve accessibility.
- Suggest actions for improving accessibility.

Sharing Resources

Actions:

- Manage a document collection of best practices and resources on SharePoint.
- Share knowledge among each other to support government representatives in integrating best practices.

Accountability

Actions:

- Provide recommendations to local governments in the form of an email or letter.
- Create an annual report on progress.
- Workplans for each year.

Annual Workflow

There are predictable annual events and milestones each year that the committee would like to align with.

February: Budget and financial planning for municipalities.

Committee Action: Develop an annual workplan and send to municipalities any requests for funding that may be required to action the plan in January.

May: National Accessibility Week and Red Shirt Day.

Committee Action: Planning and preparation for National Accessibility Week and Red Shirt Day in March and April. Send delegations to council about the events and request a proclamation.

June:

December: Annual Report Due

Committee Action: Request input from municipalities in November. Prepare an overview of outcomes and discuss at December meeting.

Selecting Priorities

To focus the work of the committee, a specific theme or topic will be selected at regular intervals to direct efforts. **The first goal is municipal facilities and infrastructure.**

Meeting Structure Update

To achieve our goals, the committee has decided to have the following items as standing items on the agenda.

- Land Acknowledgement.
- Delegations and/or Training sessions.
- Project and Action Tracker.
- Review of Feedback received through a regional feedback mechanism on local government's websites.
- General updates from municipalities – upcoming major projects, any questions related to accessibility
- General updates from community members – upcoming projects, information from partners, etc.

2025 – 2026 Strategic Plan

Summary of 2025 Projects

The following projects are projects that the Committee is committed to working towards in 2025. More details are provided below.

- Letter to municipalities.
- Presentation to municipalities.
- Letters to other committees, organizations and the public.
- Media campaign materials to raise awareness of the feedback mechanisms.
- Business and events accessibility information sheets.
- Materials to promote National Accessibility Week 2026 and July Disability Pride and Awareness Month.

Support governments in their accessibility work.

- 1) Write a letter to governments to:
 - a) Provide an update about the committee, its role, and how to engage with them.
 - b) Invite departments to bring forward projects and/ or attend a meeting to meet the team.
- 2) Generate a list of priority actions and recommendations for improvements to municipal facilities.
 - a) Community members generate ideas and identify a select few actions or policies to recommend.
 - b) Government representatives bring forward a few key buildings or problem areas they have identified need modifications and ask for solutions or ideas.
- 3) Monitor the feedback received through the shared feedback mechanism and track progress on addressing comments.
- 4) Create a stream for municipal staff to provide feedback through the mechanism that can be reviewed as a committee.
- 5) Create a presentation for council to receive information about the committee, the collaborative strategy, and work done to date.

Accessibility Week

- 6) Prepare materials to support staff to request that councils proclaim Accessibility Week.
- 7) Make a plan for Accessibility Week 2026, including how to apply for funding and what events to consider attending or hosting.

Training and Education

- 8) Pursue the following training as a committee:
 - a) the role of local government and the processes they follow to inform how the committee makes recommendations
 - b) Physical infrastructure and accessibility (RHF, etc.)
- 9) Support government staff by identifying and recommending specific training or other resources for staff.
- 10) Provide public education to improve accessibility. Specific projects include:
 - a) Creating guidelines that can be distributed with permitting processes, such as event permits or business licenses, to help get information out about accessibility in the community and the role of businesses in removing barriers.
 - b) Materials on the committee and feedback mechanisms to promote during Accessibility Week 2026 and at other public events. Materials could be a media release, brochure or pamphlet, website updates, social media posts, etc.

Collaboration

- 11) Invite other committees in the area to attend and participate in the training we host.
- 12) Invite delegations from other committees, organizations, or the public to speak to the committee.