



ACCESSIBILITY ACTION PLAN ACCESSIBILITY BY 2030

ON THE EDGE OF
EVERYWHERE

BACKGROUND

- In 2017 NS passed a law that all public sector bodies will become accessible by 2030.
- To do this, all towns and municipalities are required to develop a plan that makes their built environments, services, and programs as barrier-free and accessible as possible.

WHY

- NS has one the highest rates of disability. 30% of people identify as having an accessibility issue, higher than the Canadian national average.
- In NS that is 285,000 people
- In our hometown that's 2000 people who experience accessibility barriers using the town's various buildings and spaces and accessing services and programs.

TOWN OF YARMOUTH ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

- As Committee Chair, it has been a privilege to work with this group on a cause that has been very dear to my heart, a cause that I have been advocating for most my life.
- Myself, along with other members of the committee have a disability.
- A BIG THANK YOU needs to go to: Sherrie, Jane, Tanya, Laurie, Tracy, Peter, Natalie, Mike, Derek, Gil, and Francois.
- Thank You also to those who took the time to speak with us and give us your insight on how accessibility has affected you.

BARRIERS? WHAT ARE THEY?

Barrier - something that makes it harder for some people to participate. NS Accessibility act defines a barrier as anything that hinders or challenges the full effective participation in society of persons with disabilities. This can include a communication barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy, or a practice.

It should also be noted that the NS human rights makes it law that reasonable efforts must be taken to give a person with a disability access to a service, building, program or employment.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Town of Yarmouth is committed to removing Barriers where they are found, in its Services, Communications, Built Environment, Transportation, and Employment.

WHAT WE HEARD

- Over the last year we spoke to many people. My goal as chair was to make sure we heard from a diversified group of people and cover a broad range of accessibility issues. I think we did that.
- We heard from people with Mobility issues, vision issues, hearing, autism, and more.

- Even our newest buildings can have issues.
- The Town has No braille services.
- Many Hearing-impaired people have issues accessing Town Meetings.
- Waterfront Development is lacking for persons with mobility issues.
- Accessible Parking on Main Street is lacking.
- Snow Removal is an issue.
- The Cracks and brick work can cause problems for those with mobility issues.
- Can we make the Town's programs more sensory friendly?

The Town Needs to develop a policy that sees the adaptation of an Accessibility Lens/Impact Analysis report or statement of any development or redevelopment of its current built structure, programs, or services. To better insure an accessible Town and future.

The Future of Accessibility

- The Goal of the Town of Yarmouth is to be as accessible as possible by 2030.
- To develop a plan for future developments to meet accessibility requirements.
- Today the Committee submits an action plan on how to build an Accessible Yarmouth.

To better achieve this goal the committee also recommends:

- Promoting a National Accessibility Day
- The group to provide future consultation on new building projects, Town Services, Policy development, Programs, Transportation needs, or employment programs.

The Town of Yarmouth Accessibility Committee
Stands ready to provide Training, Education,
Consultation to the Town Of Yarmouth its
businesses or groups who would like to develop
their knowledge of accessibility issues.

THANK YOU!