



Measuring-Up Fund Final REPORT

Section One - General

1. Community Name: BARRIERS
2. Primary contact information:

Name:	Donna KIBBE	Organization:	NT Volunteer Centre
Title:	Ex. Director	Email:	NTUC@telus.net
Phone:	250 672-0033	Fax:	250 672-0097
Address:	Box 1520	Postal Code:	V0B 1E0 Barrane

3. Attach a final summary of your initiative, including stories illustrating how the community has benefited. Please include specific details about activities undertaken as a result of receiving your Measuring Up grant. (5-pages maximum).
4. Attach a list of members of your Measuring Up Committee, including the organization (if applicable) that they represent.
5. Did you hire people to help complete this initiative?
- Yes (please complete this section) No (please skip to Question 6)

How many people were hired? 2.

Do any of the people hired have a disability?

Yes No

Was money from the Measuring Up grant used to pay the people you hired?

Yes No

6. Attach copies of any media coverage related to your initiative.
7. Attach pictures (if applicable) of any related activities or projects.

Measuring up Final Report

We had two main projects for our Measuring Up funding.

Survey of Accessibility for people with Disabilities in Barriere

We hired two people Debra Tilley and Kevin Bryant to conduct this survey. Debra has a physical disability and using a cane and she was the one that contacted most of the business. Kevin & Debra and Donna Kibble attended meetings with various groups. Kevin with his computer skills is responsible for the report you find enclosed. Debra also wrote up summaries about the meetings she attended and worked on her computer skills. Meeting with people was a good experience for Kevin as he needed to work on his people skills. This study has really brought forward the lack of accessibility in our community and we will be presenting the report to the Municipal council, chamber of Commerce and other interested groups.

Raised Beds in the Community Garden

We provided funding for the Community Garden that is located behind the Senior Centre and open to all public to put in raised beds for people with disabilities. This has been a huge success and we have built more to be used next spring. We also provided funding to improve the pathways so they are more accessible. This has proved to be a great project and we will continue to work with them by providing benches and improving the accessibility.

Measuring up Committee

Carol Strom	Community Garden
Glenn Andrews	President on North Thompson Volunteer Centre
Slyvia Chivers	North Thompson Volunteer Centre
Jill Hayward	North Thompson Fall Fair Star/Journal Editor
Virginia Smith	Municipal Council Director
Kathy Dunn	North Thompson Volunteer Centre treasurer
Donna Kibble	North Thompson Volunteer Centre

Section Two - Financial Information

Please provide final budget information in the format below:

Expenditures	AMOUNT	IN KIND RESOURCES		MEASURING UP FUND
		Amount	Source	Amount
WAGES	2400			2400
Advertising	62.45			62.45
Administration				6000
- Computer Use				
- meeting rooms				
- Office Use				
- Coordination of project				
Community Garden	2919.38	1100.00	see attached	2919.38
Totals:				11,381.83

Remainder \$3,615.17 being used to install buxels along Keen main street.

Section Three - Measuring Up Guide

- 1) Attach a summary of any comments, thoughts or suggestions you have for changes to the Measuring Up Guide. Please be specific. (1-page maximum)
- 2) Did you develop additional tools to support your use of the Measuring Up Guide?
 - Yes (please complete this section)
 - No (please skip to Section Five)

Attach copies of these tools along with comments about why and how these tools were developed. (1-page maximum)

SEP 26 2008



Section Five - Report Declaration

I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge all the information contained in this Report and any attachments is true and complete.
- Measuring Up, 2010 Legacies Now and the Province of BC were given appropriate recognition as a funding partner as per the Guidelines provided in the Contribution Agreement.
- I have submitted the Final Report in accordance to the approved deadline.

Authorized Representative:

Name (please print): Donna KIBBLE

Position: Ec. Director

Signature: Donna Kibble

Date: Sept 23/08

Mail completed AND signed Final Reports to:

Measuring Up Fund
2010 Legacies Now
400 - 1095 West Pender
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 2M6
Phone: 778-327-5153

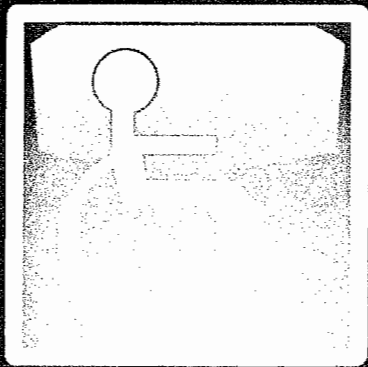
Measuring Up was created by 2010 Legacies Now in partnership with the Vancouver Agreement, the Province of BC and over 80 disability organizations throughout the province. Measuring Up helps BC communities assess and improve how accessible and inclusive they are for people with disabilities.

Measuring Up

Barriere BC

**Community Accessibility Report
September 2008**

*Prepared by: Kevin Bryant and Debra Tilley
on behalf of the
North Thompson Volunteer and Info Center
as well as 2010 Legacy Now*



Message from Accessibility co-ordinator Debra Tilley

While doing my measuring up program I've found the people in Barriere very helpful in letting me into their business with my surveys. The surveys were yes and no questions on how accessible their business was for people with disabilities. It was an eye opener for a lot of them in realizing just how their business related. In doing so I got to meet a lot of people who were very helpful.

I also met with various different groups: Brain injury group, Chronic Disease workshop, Liz Gilbertson with the Alzheimer's support group, the group home for the disabled, the Barriere District municipality council and the Pioneer Residence for seniors. As well I met with individuals to get their input on how we could make Barriere more accessible for people with disabilities. A lot of good ideas were brought up, like door stoppers on the bottom of doors so when people pushing wheelchairs could put them down so the doors would stay open, main street (Barriere Town Road) could use some more benches for people to sit that cannot walk for long periods of time. Other things like, white lines on the sides of the roads be painted more often. It was also brought up that a small bus would be wonderful for the people with disabilities. Also home delivery of groceries would be a great asset for people with disabilities.

It was a wonderful time getting to know all of Barriere and it's town people. Through funding from the measuring up program the volunteer center was able to contribute funds for the community gardens, in having raised beds put in for people with disabilities which is just wonderful. It has been an eye opener for all. I really enjoyed meeting with the people with any type of disabilities. They were just wonderful, all in all if asked to participate in another project of such I would gladly do it in a heartbeat.

Thank you Barriere

Debra Tilley

Accessibility Coordinator



Message from Accessibility co-ordinator Kevin Bryant

The study of accessibility in Barriere has provided important data for our community. As the baby boomer segment of our citizens transition into retirement, it is important to look at the need they may have in accessing our businesses, services and local facilities. Often what may seem to be a minor detail can be a great difficulty to a person with a disability. By looking at the data collected many of these difficulties can be solved with very cheap but effective solutions. Other larger hurdles can be looked at and planned for by local government as our community grows and evolves. I hope you find this information we have gathered to be useful.

Kevin Bryant

Accessibility Coordinator

Summary

The measuring up program is both a guide and a process that assists communities such as Barriere in assisting and improving how accessible and inclusive they are for people with disabilities as well as others such as seniors, parents pushing baby carriages, tourists with luggage and people with injuries.

By increasing accessibility in the community, benefits such as employment opportunities, improved public space, recreational facilities, restaurants and shops are created.

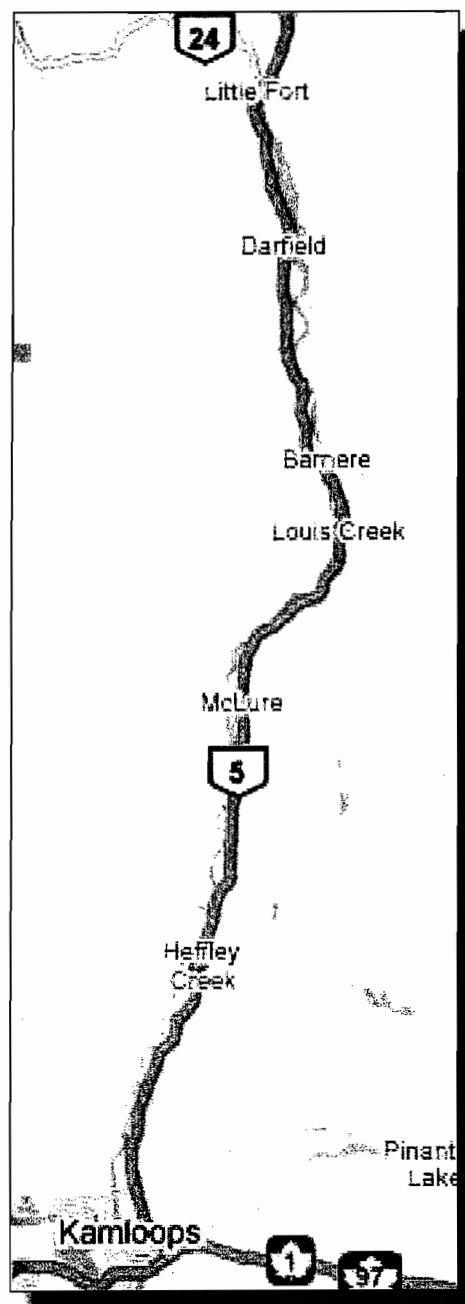
Coordinators Debra Tilley and Kevin Bryant designed and executed an Accessibility Survey of local businesses and organizations. Also local groups were met with and asked for input on difficulties that their members may have with accessibility issues in the community.

This report:

- 1. Describes the process which was used to study accessibility in the community of Barriere, British Columbia.**
- 2. Presents the results of completed research, and highlights of the results.**
- 3. Presents suggestions and comments presented by people who were interviewed.**
- 4. Describes possible measures and solutions the businesses and organizations can take to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.**

About the Municipality of Barriere BC

The Municipality of Barriere is situated 45 minutes north of Kamloops, BC, along the Yellowhead Highway, the region is referred to as the Lower North Thompson Valley. Barriere has a population of approximately 1300 persons (2006 census population). Barriere services an area of approx 3500 people including the communities of Little Fort, Darfield, Louis Creek, McLure and First Nations Community of Simpcw.



About the Accessibility Survey

In total 34 businesses and organizations were surveyed. Organizations included Government facilities, recreation facilities such as the Seniors Center and local Legion branch, churches, as well as the local retirement facility and others.

The survey was conducted during July and August of 2008. All businesses and organizations asked to participate did so in a very professional and helpful manner, except for one business who opted not to participate.

A total of 27 questions were asked, spanning 3 pages. In each survey some surveyors chose to not answer some questions if they felt they didn't apply. Not all surveyed answered all questions, but for the most part all participants appeared to understand the questions presented and answered truthfully.

The survey was divided into 5 sections:

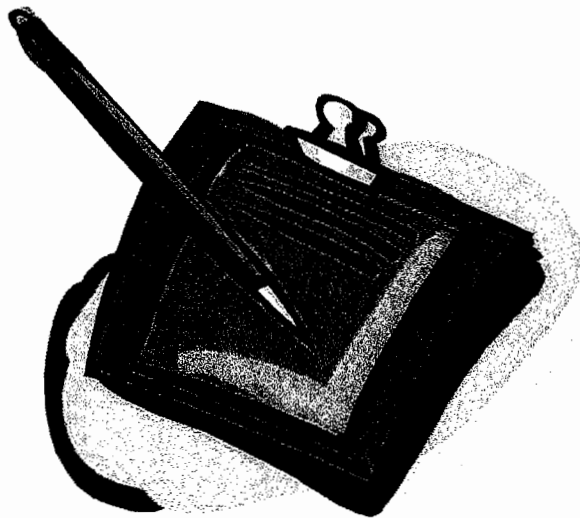
Business Entrance & Halls

Parking

Restrooms

Doors

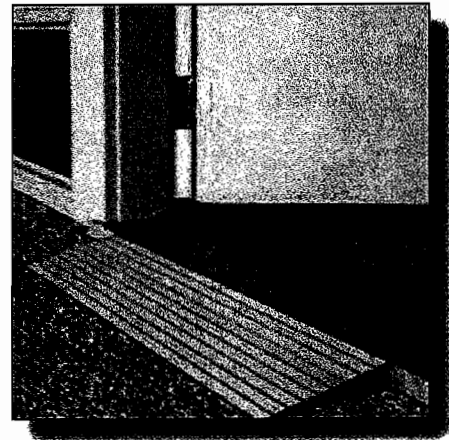
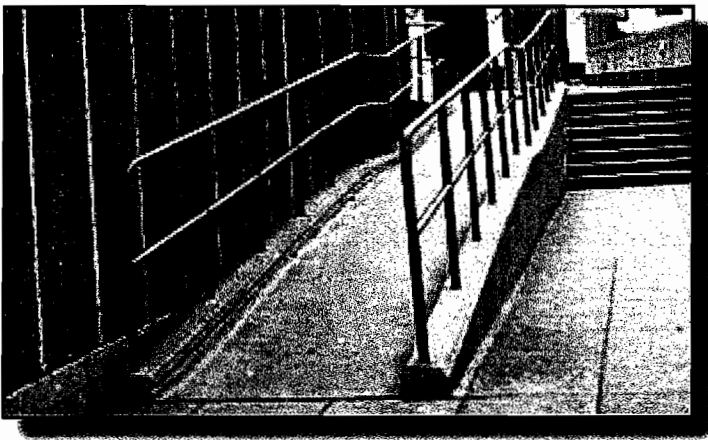
Communication



Barriere BC Accessibility Survey Results

Business Entrance & Halls

Is there a ramp or level entrance to the business door?	Yes-26	No-9
Are the sides of ramps adequately protected with handrails?	Yes-6	No-10
Are there directional signs that clearly direct people to ramps and accessible entrances?	Yes-7	No-13
Are there directional signs so people know where to go upon entering the building?	Yes-12	No-11
Are there handrails at the business entrance?	Yes-12	No-23
Are there handrails in the business halls/aisles?	Yes-4	no-27
Are water fountains/payphones/bulletin boards, etc., accessible to persons in wheelchairs?	yes-12	no-8
Are fire extinguishers/water fountains/payphones, etc., recessed so as not to create obstacles?	yes-18	no-3
Is snow and ice adequately removed from walkways during the winter months?	yes-32	no-1
Are ramps protected from rain and winter icing or snow?	yes-9	no-10
Are open stairs fitted with a means of warning the blind; e.g., slightly raised abrasive strips?	yes-4	no-9



Barriere BC Accessibility Survey Results Cont.

Parking

Are there parking spaces marked "Handicapped Parking"?	yes-10	no-24
Are handicap parking spaces 1.5 times the usual width?	yes-10	no-9
Is there a level approach to the business building from the parking area or street?	yes-30	no-4
Is the parking lot well lighted at night?	yes-24	no-7
Are snow and ice adequately removed from parking areas during winter months?	yes-32	no-1



Restrooms

Do restrooms (especially toilet areas) have handrails?	yes-12	no-17
Are restrooms wheelchair accessible?	yes-18	no-10
Are toilet stalls large enough to accommodate a wheelchair?	yes-20	no-8
Are the sinks wheelchair accessible?	yes-18	no-9
Are faucet controls easy to operate, requiring no difficult finger or hand action?	yes-16	no-10
Are mirrors, soap, and towels accessible to persons in wheelchairs?	yes-15	no-11
Are restrooms accessible to public?	yes-16	no-12



Doors

Are exterior and interior doors easy to open?	yes-25	no-7
Do business doors swing without conflict to wheelchairs?	yes-18	no-12
Are there vertical door handles or horizontal door bars rather than slippery round knobs?	yes-17	no-15



Communication

Are employees able / trained to help customers with difficulties in communicating/reading?	yes-22	no-4
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The Canadian Standards Association estimates that people with disabilities in Canada will represent 20-25% of the recreation, retail, entertainment, workplace and housing markets in the coming years.

Percentages based on survey results:

Business Entrance & Halls

76% of businesses surveyed in Barriere had a ramp or level entrance. Although 29% of those were not protected with handrails. Only 20% of those business had signs identifying the ramps and accessible entrances, but in most cases ramps were obvious for potential users. 95% of businesses felt that ice and snow was removed adequately from walkways during winter, but only 29% are protected from rain and snow. 26% of open stairs are not fitted with a means of warning the blind.

Room for improvements here would be more handrails on both business entrances as well as increased handrails for ramps. More stairs should be fitted with raised abrasive strips or other means of warning for visually impaired people.

Parking

Only 29% of businesses had specially marked parking for handicapped, and only 29% of those parking spots were over width. 88% of businesses has a level approach to the building from the parking area. Having a well lit parking lot is important to Barriere businesses as 94% were well lit at night. 94% of businesses surveyed have their snow and ice adequately removed in winter.

Overall Barriere has good parking facilities with accessibility in mind. More handicapped parking spaces of the correct 1.5 width would be an improvement.

Restrooms

47% of those surveyed said they had restrooms open to the public. 50% of businesses didn't have handrails in restrooms. 59% of restroom toilet facilities are large enough to accommodate a wheelchair. Approximately 50% of sinks, mirrors, soap, towels are wheelchair accessible.

More handrails should be added to existing washroom facilities, as well as accessibility to features could be improved.

Doors

74% of businesses felt they had easy to open doors, but only 53% could swing without conflict to a person in a wheelchair. Only 50% had easy to open bars instead of door knobs.

Doors to many businesses should be re-examined and refitted or replaced with more accessible models. Upgrading to easier to open door handles could be improved upon.

Communication

65% of businesses considered themselves to be able to help with persons with reading or communications issues.

Further education of businesses and staff would be a good thing to look at.



Interviews with community groups

The Barriere Measuring Up program met with various community organizations. Included were the Pioneer Residence, Barriere Group Home, Brain Injury Group, and local Alzheimer's Group .

The groups were asked for input on difficulties in access that they have seen in the community. The following is a list of topics that came up.

Sometimes difficult to participate in community events and activities, as others don't understand or have patience with brain injury individuals. This issue was presented by both Alzheimer's as well as Brain Injury Group.

Potential solution: educate community organizations on these types of injuries. Offer workshops or information session to make people more aware.

Local access for school upgrading for learning impaired limited. Kamloops is only option in many cases.

Potential solution: investigate options for expanded local programming through high school, employment center or UNC.

Often difficult for people using walkers, wheel chairs and canes to manage heavy doors leading into businesses and facilities.

Potential solution: Businesses could be informed of this difficulty for so many people, and they would perhaps install fold down door stoppers.

Often difficult to navigate local roads due to lack of lines and sidewalks. When pushed wheelchairs at side of road they are often at a slant due to the drop off from the road edge.

Potential solution: Municipality should be informed of this problem so that they can plan for it in future upgrades to streets.

Wheelchairs, people with walkers and even cars have difficult time getting to senior center as the access road is gravel, and poorly maintained.

Potential Solution: Present problem to municipality for future planning.

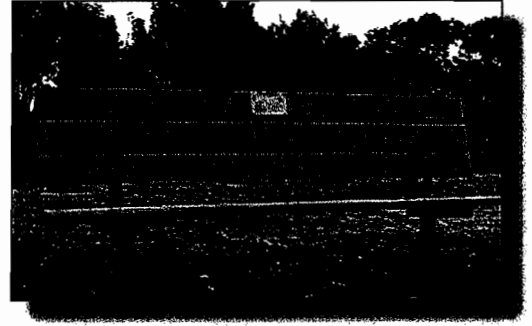
Difficulties in getting groceries home, a problem for many people with disabilities.

potential solution: possible small business opportunity for some individual. Could be posted at the employment center. Local grocer could be informed of request and asked to participate in a solution.



Can be difficult to walk long distances to local businesses and services.

Potential solution: Municipality should be informed for possible planning. Also businesses should be informed and perhaps they would be willing to provide benches. Potential for advertising to pay for the benches, as is seen in larger communities.



Difficult to people with disabilities to get to Kamloops for meetings and appointments, as the community bus is only once per week and the greyhound location is located away from town.

Potential solutions: Municipality to be informed for future planning. Car pooling system could be organized through volunteer center.



Conclusion

We believe that this study has shown that although many Barriere businesses and facilities do have accessibility in mind that there is room for improvement. Presented possible solutions as for the most part cost effective. The fact that the business owners filled out the survey and thought about the questions has made many of them more accessibility aware.

This study will be made available to everyone in the community. One suggestion would be to produce a follow up pamphlet that pinpoints some of the weaknesses many businesses have for accessibility and the options they have to removing those barriers. Many would be very perceptive to this as it is sure to have a positive impact on their business.

