

Requirements for Local Governments under the Accessible B.C. Regulation

Local governments are among over 750 public sector organizations listed in the [Accessible B.C. Regulation](#) and are required by September 1, 2023 to establish:

- An accessibility committee
- An accessibility plan
- A tool to receive feedback on accessibility

These requirements are intended to get organizations planning for accessibility in a way that is informed by people with disabilities. They are flexible and there are lots of different ways to approach the requirements.

Accessibility Plan

- An Accessibility Plan outlines the activities the organization plans to do to identify, remove and prevent barriers.
- Organizations can determine the content of their own plans.
- Organizations must consult with the accessibility committee, and make the plan publicly available.
- The plan must be reviewed and updated every 3 years.
- **By September 1, 2023** local governments must have a publicly available accessibility plan. This can be a draft plan, a plan that the organization is consulting on, an existing plan that is amended to include accessibility, a plan developed jointly with others, a webpage with links to strategies and plans that already exist that remove barriers, etc.

Strategies to comply:

- Local governments could adapt existing plans or strategies, such as Healthy Community Plans, Disability Assessments, Age-Friendly Plans, Official Community Plans, or Diversity and Inclusion Strategies to include language on accessibility. For example, the City of Nanaimo has included an “Access for All” section in their [City Plan – Nanaimo ReImagined](#).
- Local governments could choose to work together to create plan for a wider region.

Local governments might have a web page listing next steps in developing their accessibility plan.



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Accessibility Committee

- An Accessibility Committee provides advice to the organization on their accessibility plan and how to remove and prevent barriers.
- Accessibility committees should aim to have at least half of its members be persons with disabilities and/or represent a disability-serving organization.
- Membership should also aim to reflect the diversity of British Columbians and include Indigenous peoples.
- **By September 1, 2023** local governments must have an accessibility committee.

Strategies to comply:

- Local governments could adapt an existing committee such as an Age-friendly committee or a Healthy Communities Network with an updated terms of reference to include accessibility.
- Local governments could work with other organizations to develop a joint committee.
- Local governments could start small with a group of employees to be their first accessibility committee.
- Local governments can list their initial actions and intent to create an accessibility committee on the local government website

Feedback Mechanism

- A feedback mechanism provides a way for those in or interacting with the organization to provide feedback on barriers and the accessibility plan.
- Feedback received must be considered when updating the accessibility plan
- Feedback can be shared with the accessibility committee to support their work
- **By September 1, 2023** local governments must have a way for people to provide feedback on barriers.

Strategies to comply:

- This might be an email address, a webform, a designated individual in the organization such as a social planner, etc.

For more information please visit: [Frequently Asked Questions about the Accessible B.C. Regulation for Organizations.](#)

For questions about compliance requirements please contact:
engageaccessibility.gov.bc.ca

Resources to Support Compliance

1. DABC has created the [BC Accessibility Hub](#) website with shared resources that support all prescribed organizations. DABC also recently launched an [Accessibility Toolkit](#) that guides prescribed organizations through the process of establishing an accessibility committee, an accessibility plan and a feedback mechanism.



Scan the QR code on the right side of this page to access the Accessibility Toolkit.

Please reach out to DABC with your questions or requests for support:

aop@disabilityalliancebc.org

Current Funding Opportunities (as of May 10, 2023)

- Local governments are eligible to receive free workplace disability management assessments, and up to \$7,500 in funding to implement the recommendations. This initiative can help local governments meet requirements under the *Accessible BC Act* to have accessibility plans in place by September 2023. Please contact NIDMAR staff, Bill Dyer at bill.dyer@nidmar.ca with questions about this initiative.
- Age-Friendly Planning grants. Grants open May 16, 2023. More information can be found on the [Plan H website](#)

Future Opportunities

- Watch out for further announcements of funding during AccessAbility Week May 29 to June 3, 2023!