

# A Plain Language Summary of the Accessible BC Act

By BC People First Society



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The Accessible BC Act is a law that helps make British Columbia more accessible for people with disabilities. It became law in June 2021 to remove barriers so everyone can take part in their communities.

## What is Accessibility?

Accessibility means that people can fully take part in daily life. This includes:

- ✓ Getting into buildings and public spaces
- ✓ Using services and programs
- ✓ Reading important information
- ✓ Finding jobs and opportunities




## What Does the Accessible BC Act Do?

The Act helps remove barriers and make BC more inclusive. It does this by:

- ✓ Creating accessibility standards (rules to remove barriers)
- ✓ Requiring accessibility plans for government and big organizations
- ✓ Having people share feedback on accessibility problems

The law says the government must create rules that will help make places and services fair and easy to use.

The first standards are being made for:

-  Employment
-  Service delivery
-  Information and communication

## Who Must Follow the Act?

Right now, some groups must follow the rules under this Act, including:

- ✓ The BC government
- ✓ Cities and towns
- ✓ Hospitals and schools
- ✓ Libraries and other public services

Over time, it may grow to include more public and private organizations.

## What is an Accessibility Plan?




An Accessibility Plan is a written plan that shows how an organization will:

- ✓ Find and remove barriers
- ✓ Listen to people with disabilities
- ✓ Make improvements over time

Groups making Accessibility Plans must include people with disabilities in planning and decision-making. This makes sure real voices and lived experiences are part of the solution.

## How Can People Give Feedback?

People can report barriers and suggest changes by:

-  Calling or emailing organizations
-  Speaking at public meetings
-  Filling out feedback forms

This helps public services learn and improve accessibility. Every organization that follows the Act must have a way to get feedback about barriers.

You can also contact the Accessibility Directorate if you have feedback about the Act or want to get involved (email: [accessibility@gov.bc.ca](mailto:accessibility@gov.bc.ca))


## Why is the Act Important?

The Accessible BC Act works alongside other laws to protect rights, like the BC Human Rights Code, the Canadian Human Rights Act, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Act helps make sure people with disabilities are treated fairly and can access the same services, jobs, and spaces as everyone else. It helps build a fair and inclusive BC for all!

## Want to learn more?

Visit the website here:

 [gov.bc.ca/accessibility](https://www.gov.bc.ca/accessibility)