

Accessible B.C. Act: 2025–2026 Progress Report



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Accessible B.C. Act: 2025–2026 Progress Report

The *Accessible British Columbia Act* (the Act) establishes a framework for government to work in partnership with people with disabilities and the broader community to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to allow full and equal participation of people with disabilities in B.C. This report is published pursuant to the requirements in *Section 6* of the Act.



Part 2: Recognition and Accountability



Accountability

Part 2 of the Act requires that the Minister and the Provincial Accessibility Committee (PAC) provide a report outlining their efforts towards implementing the Act every fiscal year. This is the fifth progress report, and it details progress on implementation of the Act in 2025–26.

Part 2 of the Act also requires the initiation of regular independent reviews to assess the effectiveness of the Act and its regulations. The first independent reviewer was appointed in March 2026. The review is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2027.

Did you know that Ministries across government are taking steps to address barriers? To learn more about how government is tackling these barriers, check out the ***AccessibleBC plan***

Recognition

AccessAbility Week promotes inclusion and accessibility to support the full participation of every person in their communities. In recognition, the Province provided \$450,000 in grant funding that was administered by Disability Alliance BC (DABC) to 11 community organizations to improve and promote accessibility and inclusion in the Province. Each organization received between \$23,638 and \$40,000 for projects across many focus areas. Projects include provision of civic education, support for community wellness and art programs, and providing life skills education and accessible employment for youth with disabilities.

In addition to celebrating AccessAbility Week, the provincial government recognized several other observances on accessibility and disability-related issues including Autism Acceptance Month in April, Brain Injury Awareness and Deaf Blindness Awareness Month in June, Disability Employment Month in September, Registered Disability Savings Plan Awareness Month in October, and Indigenous Disability Awareness Month in November. Activities and events in recognition of these dates vary, but they included the issuing of provincial proclamations, provincial or local community events, and recognition by governments and organizations.

Part 3:

Accessible Organizations



Part 3 of the Act sets out accessibility requirements for the B.C. government and regulated organizations. The three requirements include forming an accessibility committee, creating an accessibility plan, and developing a tool to receive public feedback about accessibility barriers.

Compliance in B.C. Government

The provincial government has been in compliance with the requirements of Part 3 since 2022.

Provincial Accessibility Committee (PAC)

PAC was established in 2021 and is an advisory committee that supports the implementation of the Act. PAC develops and recommends accessibility standards and provides advice to the provincial government on accessibility-related matters. In 2025–26, PAC met twice.

Accessibility Plan

B.C.'s first accessibility plan was in effect from 2022–23 to 2024–25. This year, government released its ***second accessibility plan***, which spans from 2025–26 to 2027–28.

The plan was developed in collaboration with all provincial government ministries and contains commitments from all 23 ministries, as well as the Public Service Agency. Input from PAC as well as public input through the Accessibility Feedback Tool (AFT) was considered in the development of the plan.

Accomplishments from the first accessibility plan can be found in the appendix of the ***current plan***.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACCESSIBILITY LEADERSHIP ACROSS GOVERNMENT

- In 2023, B.C. created a digital intake process for housing dispute resolution services that now processes more than 20,000 applications each year.
- B.C. government expanded evacuee support options through the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program.
- From 2022–23 to 2024–25, B.C. invested approximately \$24 million in accessibility improvements in government spaces, with a focus on emergency systems, washrooms, and signage and wayfinding.
- B.C. launched a new feature to help people without a BC Services Card access critical services.
- Check out the ***AccessibleBC plan*** for more examples like these.

Accessibility Feedback Tool (AFT)

The AFT was launched in October 2022. The AFT has received 561 submissions since its inception. 54 submissions were received during the 2025–26 year. Feedback has been shared with all 23 ministries across the provincial government to identify barriers and direct efforts to improving accessibility across B.C. Feedback received through the AFT is also used to inform public engagement, accessibility plan priorities, and accessibility standards development.

Public Sector Compliance

In April 2022, the B.C. government adopted the ***Accessible British Columbia Regulation***, prescribing over 750 public sector organizations including school districts, health authorities, and municipalities to meet the Part 3 requirement to establish an accessibility committee, plan and feedback mechanism. These requirements are intended to encourage organizations to work proactively to address barriers within the organization over time. DABC continues to administer the remainder of \$3 million provided by the provincial government in 2022 to support organization compliance.

A point in time audit conducted in the summer of 2025 showed that nearly 85% of prescribed organizations were compliant or in progress to being compliant. Government has been working with trusted partners to help organizations comply with the regulation. Efforts continue to support organizations in this work.

**THE ACCESSIBLE B.C. REGULATION
PRESCRIBES DIFFERENT TYPES OF PUBLIC
SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES
OF PART 3 OF THE ACT, INCLUDING:**

- School districts, including francophone and independent school districts
- Municipal police departments
- Municipalities
- Post-secondary education institutions
- Public libraries
- Regional districts



Part 4:

Accessibility Standards



Part 4 of the Act sets out the authority for the development of accessibility standards in a range of areas.

Accessibility Standards Development

PAC, supported by two technical committees, began work on developing accessibility standards in 2023. The draft standards on Accessible Service Delivery and Employment Accessibility were released for public consultation in 2024. The consultation feedback was used by PAC and the technical committees to revise the standards. In 2025, PAC submitted the revised standards for Ministerial consideration.

Indigenous Engagement

The Act recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples and acknowledges that these rights must be considered in the development of accessibility standards. Following a distinctions-based approach, the Accessibility Directorate continues to engage with Indigenous partners on a roughly quarterly basis to provide updates on the development of accessibility standards. Ongoing engagement and consultation with Indigenous Peoples will continue to be a priority as work to implement the Act continues.





