



Corporation of the Village of Cumberland

2673 Dunsmuir Avenue
P.O. Box 340
Cumberland, BC V0R 1S0
Telephone: 250-336-2291
Fax: 250-336-2321
cumberland.ca

File No. 0400-20

November 28, 2019

By email: engageaccessibility@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
PO Box 9933 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9R2

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Accessibility Through Legislation - Formal Submission

The Village of Cumberland is pleased that the Province of BC plans to prepare laws, standards, and policies to better support people with disabilities and is thankful for the opportunity to provide a formal submission.

In 2015, Cumberland Council established an Accessibility Committee initially to make recommendations to Council on

- a strategy to encourage and support owners of existing public and commercial buildings in making accessibility improvements,
- a 10 year accessibility plan for Village-owned public facilities and spaces, including projects and budget estimates, and
- designated parking for people with disabilities.

While the Village was able to engage professional consulting assistance to develop these frameworks, and has benefited from the Rick Hansen Foundation certification program and the Canada Enabling Accessibility Fund, the Village would greatly benefit from adequate Provincial accessibility standards for public places and services.

Cumberland is a small community of 4,000 people that is working on significant infrastructure upgrades to meet Provincial health and safety standards, and therefore has as limited capacity in terms of staff and funding to remove barriers for people with disabilities. Despite this, the Accessibility Committee has kept accessibility and inclusion on the radar of Council and staff who are better able to use an accessibility lens when looking at municipal services and projects.

Cumberland Council requested that its Accessibility Committee make recommendations on a formal submission to the review and has endorsed the following feedback:

1. Improve accessibility requirements of the BC Building Code.
2. Improve accessibility standards for multi-family, commercial and public spaces.
3. Require that public and commercial spaces be fully accessible.
4. Create accessibility legislation modelled on the Americans with Disabilities Act.
5. Require workspaces to be accessible and provide employment opportunities.
6. Provide sufficient financial support for families raising children and individuals with disabilities to meet daily living costs.
7. Provide support for businesses to create accessible spaces.
8. Provide support for local governments, schools and hospitals to effectively implement accessibility standards in the built environment.
9. Provide appropriate housing for people with disabilities.
10. Provide standards for public service levels to support people with disabilities, including emergency planning and voting opportunities.
11. Encourage development of and require use of accessible technologies (alternative and augmentative communication).
12. Provide a directory service to assist people with all manners of disabilities navigate support services.
13. Establish guidelines or standards for parking, signage, and built spaces.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input through the engagement process.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Parker', written in a cursive style.

Rachel Parker
Corporate Officer