

Advancing Universal Accessibility in Canada – Examples

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Overview

- 1 in 5 Canadians report having 1 or more disabilities in 2017 (6 million Canadians)
- 35% publicly owned social and affordable housing in Canada were barrier-free in 2020
- ½ of Canadians with a physical disability need assistance in their homes
- In 2004 Canadian parliament needed to accommodate a quadriplegic member of Parliament
- ALL Canadians have the right to take part fully in society



Accessible Canada Act

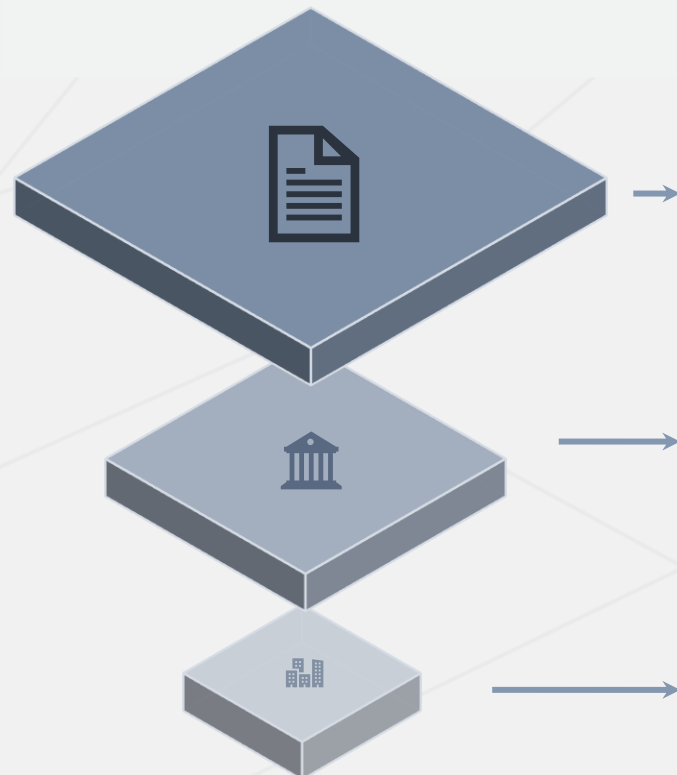
Canada passed the Accessible Canada Act in 2019 with goal to create a barrier free Canada by 2040

The law is to identify, remove and prevent barriers and ensure greater opportunities for persons with disabilities

- Chief Accessibility Officer of Canada
- Accessibility Commissioner
- Accessibility Standards Canada

7 priorities: Employment, the built environment, Information and Communications Technologies; communication, the design and delivery of government programs and services; the procurement of goods, services and facilities; and Transportation

Requirements



Accessible Canada Act

- Chief Accessibility Officer of Canada
- Accessibility Commissioner
- Accessibility Standards Canada

Federal Departments and federally regulated entities

- Required to follow the regulations of the act and develop accessibility plans
- Will be required to follow new standards

Provinces, Cities and Towns

- May chose to follow the Accessible Canada Act
- Several provinces have their own Accessibility Acts
(Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Several major Canadian cities have their own accessibility guidelines (Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, etc.)

Centre Block rehabilitation project

Economic and operating benefits



Modernizing the Centre Block

Canada's Parliament to shift from one of the worst performing assets to a model for sustainability:

- Target **net zero** greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce energy consumption by **75%**
- Reduce indoor water consumption by **50%**

Protect built heritage and preserve health and safety by adding base isolation system to reduce earthquake force by **60%** on building

Parliament to operate more safely and efficiently through the installation of modern security and information technology systems

Millions of visitors come to Parliament Hill every year; the new Parliament Welcome Centre will **double** the capacity for visitors to come inside the Centre Block

Making Parliament universally accessible and inclusive:

- new central entry
- improved and simplified navigation
- wider corridors
- gender-neutral washrooms
- accessible path of travel to all public spaces



Creating jobs

Investing in Canada's Parliament has helped to create more than **4,000** jobs nationally, and will create **70,000** in areas such as:

- engineering
- construction
- architecture and interior design
- masonry
- restoration

Over **500** companies from across Canada already working on the project

400 workers on site daily, to increase to **1,500** at the project's peak

Initial internships with **50** students from **10** Canadian colleges and universities to date



New Parliament Welcome Centre

New underground complex that connects the Centre Block with the East and West Blocks to support more secure and efficient parliamentary operations

Add **32,600** square metres of space to address the needs of parliamentarians and to improve the visitor experience

Centre Block Rehabilitation Program

To establish Centre Block and Parliament Hill as a model of accessibility, which respects the ongoing function of Parliament, heritage attributes of the building and site, visitor experience, security, and cultural value.



Evolution of philosophies

- Barrier-Free Design
- Accessible Design
- Universal Design/Design for All/Inclusive Design
- **Universal Accessibility**



Equality



Equity



Universal Accessibility

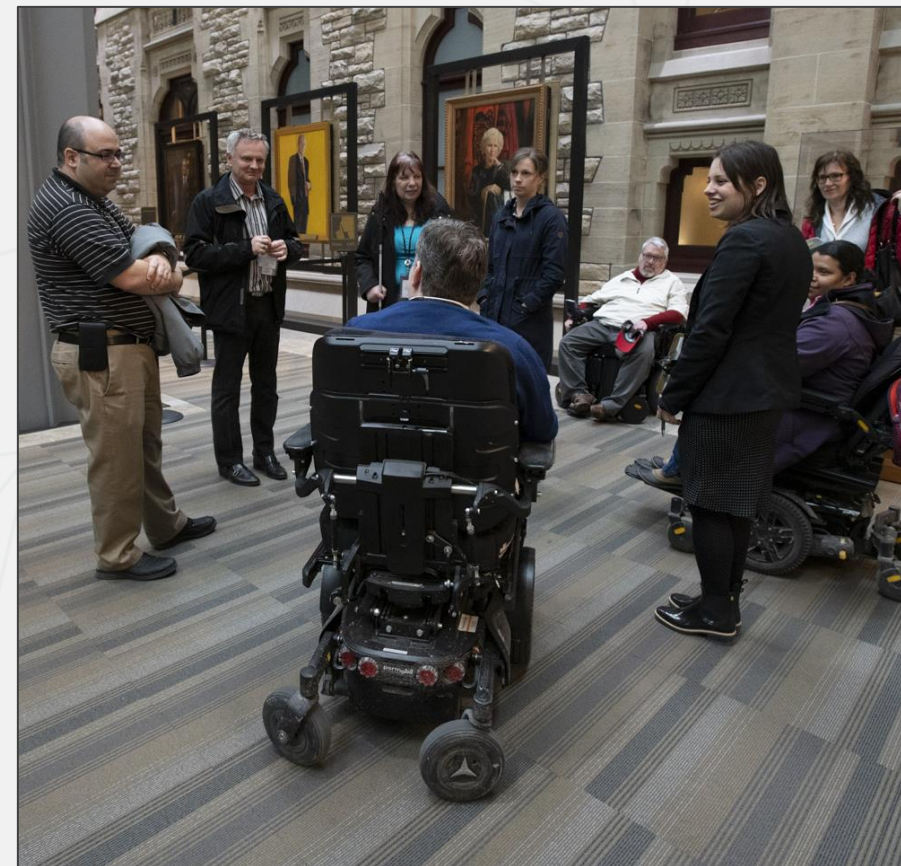
Who benefits from Universal Accessibility?



Engagement of persons with disabilities

Universal Accessibility Advisory Committee

- Provides advice and guidance to the development and implementation of the Parliamentary Precinct Universal Accessibility Strategy and Action Plan.
- Members from national accessibility organizations, Parliamentary Partners and federal employees with lived experiences.



Parliamentary Precinct UA Strategy and Action Plan

- A practical and phased approach for the integration of UA within new construction and projects of all scales;
- An approach to ensuring equity and inclusion in the development of projects undertaken within the Precinct; and
- Guidance to achieve balance between UA, heritage, sustainability and security.

Also includes:

- Universal Accessibility Best Practices; and
- Comprehensive building audit program.



PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCT UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT CANADA
SCIENCE AND PARLIAMENTARY INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH
NOVEMBER 2022

Centre Block Rehabilitation Program



Images from Public Services and Procurement Canada, 2023

Accessibility Opportunity: Chamber improvement



Centre Block pre-rehabilitation chamber design



Temporary chamber in West Block



Accessibility Opportunity: Universal Washroom

Accessibility Opportunity: Transformable Lift



Notre Dame Cathedral, France



Dramaten Theatre, Sweden



Learning from Indigenous Leaders and Architects

Round Prairie Elders' Lodge (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)



Other efforts to improve accessibility in Canada

Enabling Accessibility Fund

- Led by Employment and Social Development Canada
- Provides funding for projects that make Canadian communities and workplaces more accessible for persons with disabilities

National AccessAbility Week (NAAW)

- Presented by the Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion
- Celebrates the contributions and leadership of persons with disabilities in Canada
- Led by Treasure Board Secretariat

Canada Disability Tax Credit and Registered Disability Savings Plan

- Led by the Canada Revenue Agency and Employment and Social Development Canada
- Aims to reduce the financial challenges of living with a disability



Canadian assistance in Ukraine

- ◆ **Support to Ukraine's Reforms for Governance** ("SURGe" implemented by Alinea-International) has been assisting the Presidential Commissioner for Barrier-Free Environment, Ms. Tetiana Lomakina.
 - Aligning the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment (the "Barrier-Free Strategy")
 - Developing the national "Barrier-Free Action Plan" and monitoring its implementation
 - Advising all 24 oblast administrations on developing their regional barrier-free action plans, ensuring that inclusive policy-making is mainstreamed across different levels of government
 - Supporting 5 pilot communities in establishing local councils on barrier-free accessibility, in Slavutych, Dnipro, Vinnytsia, Ternopil and Rivne
 - Assisting the development of the Strategy on Inclusive Education

Questions & Comments

