



Accessibility Standards
Canada

Normes d'accessibilité
Canada

Accessibility Standards Canada

Presentation at the Easter Seals Community Conference:
Beyond Social Inclusion

Canada 

5 Things about Accessibility Standards Canada

1. Who we are/mandate
2. Leadership and governance
3. Standards development
4. Collaboration with stakeholders and public engagement
5. Where are we now/Annual Public Meeting

1. Who we are - Origins Accessible Canada Act

- Received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019
- Legislation created 3 separate entities:
 - Chief Accessibility Officer
 - Accessibility Commissioner
 - Accessibility Standards Canada

Mandate

- Develop and revise accessibility standards
- Establish Technical Committees that include persons with disabilities and other experts, industry representatives and regulators
- Standards published and submitted to Minister of Disability Inclusion for consideration of turning them into regulations

Mandate

- Standards developed by Accessibility Standards Canada will serve as model standards
- Promote and support research into identification and removal of barriers and prevention of new barriers

2. Leadership and Governance

- Departmental Corporation governed by a Board of Directors
- Philip Rizcallah, CEO, is in charge to oversee day-to-day operations

Board of Directors

- Mr. Paul-Claude Bérubé, Chair
- Ms. Mary Reid, Vice-Chair

Directors:

- Mr. William Adair
- Mr. Kory L. Earle
- Ms. Maureen Haan
- Ms. Penny Hartin
- Ms. Rabia S. Khedr
- Mr. Brad McCannell
- Dr. Joe McLaughlin
- Ms. Laurie Ringaert



3. Standards development

What is a standard?

- A standard provides rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or for their results, aimed at achieving an optimal degree of order in a given context.
- A standard guides activities of organizations in a way that is consistent across sectors, and provides a reliable basis for people to experience and share the same expectations from services or products.
- A standard can take many forms. Apart from product standards, other examples include: test methods, codes of practice, guideline standards and management systems standards.

What is a standard? (continued)

- Standards are voluntary and can only be legally enforced once they are adopted into regulation.
- According to the Accessible Canada Act, a standard that is developed by Accessibility Standards Canada can be recommended to the Minister responsible for Accessibility Standards Canada for adoption into regulation.

First 4 standards

- The Board of directors recently voted to have the organization focus on 4 standards:
 1. emergency egress;
 2. employment;
 3. outdoor spaces; and
 4. plain language.

4. Collaboration and Public Consultations

- Collaboration and consultation are at the heart of our mandate
- Accessibility Standards Canada will work with:
 - persons with disabilities;
 - technical experts;
 - representatives from key organizations
 - provinces and territories

5. Where are we now?

- Third Board of Directors meeting held in February
- Building the organization
- Community engagement – People with disabilities
- Scanning existing standards and best practices
- Launched our Grants and Contributions program
- Planning our first Annual Public Meeting and official launch

Communicate, Collaborate, Celebrate!

April 6, Toronto

- 1st Annual Public Meeting – April 6th in Toronto
- Official launch of the organization
- Free and open to the public
- Register now or watch online on Facebook live



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Questions/Comments?

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