

# KENTVILLE ACCESSIBILITY ACTION PLAN

## Highlights and Background

**Kentville**  
A BREATH OF FRESH AIR



NOVA SCOTIA HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN CANADA, NEARLY ONE PERSON IN THREE



The Kentville Accessibility Action Plan was created in response to the priorities outlined by the Province of Nova Scotia in the Access by Design 2030 legislation. The Kentville Accessibility Plan charts the way forward as we work to create a more inclusive, accessible, welcoming community in Kentville that exists and operates from a place of peace and friendship.

Through the consultation process, we learned that there is a **STRONG** desire for Kentville to be more welcoming and diverse. We also heard that the citizens of Kentville have an overwhelming sense of pride for their beautiful town and have many suggestions to share when it comes to making our community more accessible and welcoming!

"OUR VISION IS FOR KENTVILLE TO BE A HEALTHY VIBRANT INTEGRATED AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY WHERE ALL CITIZENS AND VISITORS CAN LIVE WORK AND PLAY IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES A FULFILLING QUALITY OF LIFE. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT CURRENTLY THERE ARE BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING THIS VISION."



THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DISABILITIES WHICH INCLUDE: PHYSICAL, VISUAL, HEARING, MENTAL HEALTH, INTELLECTUAL AND LEARNING DISABILITIES. NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE OBVIOUS!

KENTVILLE RESIDES WITHIN THE ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF THE MI'KMAQ PEOPLE. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR WORK IS LOCATED WITHIN UNCEDED AND UNSURRENDERED MI'KMAQ TERRITORY. WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO UPHOLD IN THE PROCESS OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION.

To help guide the public engagement process we used the Medicine Wheel - a comprehensive tool, created by Indigenous peoples, that looks at all interconnected systems. Through the Medicine Wheel we take into account our relationship with the land. For example, the Miner's Marsh Walk & Roll engagement session enabled enjoyment of the outdoors while the physical and emotional needs of community were explored!



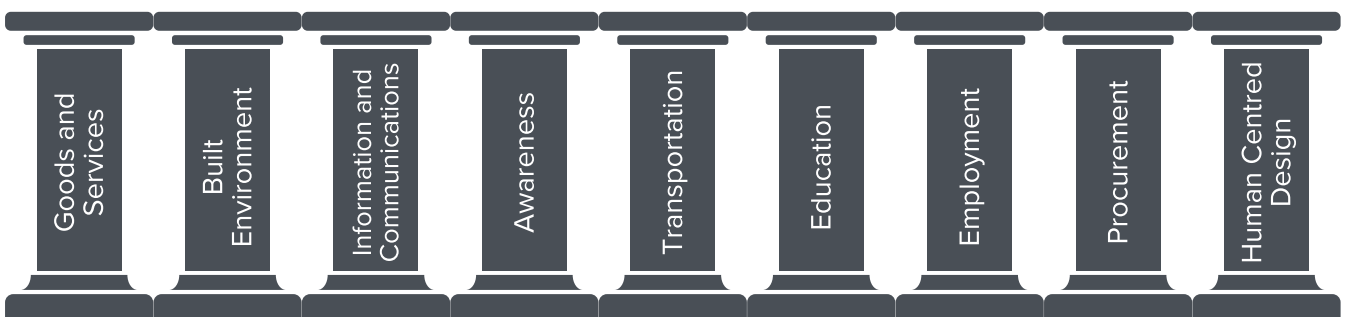
The Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) is a lens through which to assess accessibility. RHFAC ensures people with disabilities have direct input into the vision and details of how to create truly inclusive places. RHFAC has a rating system and certification process designed by people with disabilities to allow transparency, accountability, and measurable data.



Rick Hansen  
Foundation

## THE 9 PILLARS OF ACCESSIBILITY:

Each pillar was assessed through the lens of Inclusion in Action and the Medicine Wheel Framework to create an action plan.



# 600

MORE THAN 600 CITIZENS PARTICIPATED  
DIRECTLY IN ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

THERE ARE OVER 30 RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE KENTVILLE  
ACCESSIBILITY ACTION PLAN THAT ARE DESIGNED TO HELP KENTVILLE  
BECOME A MORE ACCESSIBLE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY!

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- 1 DEVELOP STANDARDS**  
to meet the recommended benchmarks;
- 2 BUILD CAPACITY AND AWARENESS**  
through training and promotion of inclusive opportunities;
- 3 COLLABORATE AND SUPPORT**  
with equity seeking groups and agencies and build relationships of mutual respect and support;
- 4 SUPPORT COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**  
of strategies that clearly identify standards and targets;
- 5 MONITOR AND EVALUATE**  
changes and policy implementation.



THE FULL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN IS  
AVAILABLE AT [WWW.KENTVILLE.CA](http://WWW.KENTVILLE.CA)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL BEDINGFIELD,  
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