

January 24, 2022

To: Public Libraries

Subject: Update regarding the Accessible B.C. Act

Dear representatives of public libraries,

I am writing to provide an update respecting the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's ongoing work to implement the new *Accessible B.C. Act* (the Act).

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey for public sector organizations regarding requirements under Part 3 of the Act. Between August and November over 240 organizations provided input about accessibility in their organization and their preparedness to be included as part of the initial implementation of the *Accessible B.C. Act*. From the survey we heard that libraries are already champions of accessibility in several ways and many libraries reported that they have existing programs or initiatives related to accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. The information provided has helped inform our recommendations to the Minister on which public sector organizations should be included as part of the initial implementation of the *Accessible B.C. Act*.

I am writing to advise you that our current recommendation is to include public libraries as part of the initial implementation of the *Accessible B.C. Act* along with a range of other organizations across the public sector. Currently, we anticipate that this initial regulation will apply to organizations in September 2022, and organizations will have at least one year to comply with the requirements of Part 3.

We are committed to working collaboratively with organizations to ensure they are supported in the identification, removal and prevention of accessibility barriers. We would value your feedback and welcome any input you may have on future materials that will help to support you with respect to the Act.

If you have any additional questions or feedback to provide at this time, please email engageaccessibility@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

Sam Turcott
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