

# Accessibility Standards Canada

Annual Public Meeting

May 31, 2021

# DescriptiveGet to know us!

* Created in 2019 under the Accessible Canada Act
* “Nothing without us” is at the heart of our mandate
* We fund research and develop standards to make Canada more accessible.

# DescriptiveGovernance

* Philip Rizcallah, CEO, is in charge to oversee day-to-day operations
* Managed by a Board of Directors
  + Majority-led by people with disabilities

# Picture of Accessibility Standards Canada’s CEO and Board members with the Minister of Disability Inclusion. Front row, from left to right: Philip Rizcallah (CEO), Mary Reid (Vice-Chair), Paul-Claude Bérubé (Chair), Minister Carla Qualtrough, Brad McCannell (Director), and Laurie Ringaert (Director). Second row, from left to right: Bill Adair (Director), Maureen Haan (Director), Kory Earle (Director), Rabia S. Khedr (Director), Dr. Joe McLaughlin (Director), and Penny Hartin (Director).Board of Directors

* Paul-Claude Bérubé, Chairperson
* Mary Reid, Vice-Chairperson
* William Adair
* Kory L. Earle
* Maureen Haan
* Penny Hartin
* Rabia S. Khedr
* Brad McCannell
* Dr. Joe McLaughlin
* Laurie Ringaert

# DescriptiveMandate

* Develop and review accessibility standards for organizations under federal jurisdiction
* Support research on the identification, removal and prevention of barriers
* Share best practices about the removal of barriers.



# Priority areas

# Left: Image of Tactile Walking Surface Indicators on a floor inside a building. Right: Exterior ramp.Built environment

# Keyboard with a blue button indicating accessibility.The buying of goods, services and facilities

# Two hardware store employees chatting while sitting in wheelchairs.Employment

# Black square with 2 white hands representing the American Sign Language.Communications (not including ICT)

# A gradient chartreuse yellow lightbulb over a black background. In the center, there is a drawing of multiple people at a service delivery facility. The drawing shows: a guide dog user sitting in front of another person sitting at a desk, a person handing a form to a person sitting at a desk, and three people in line.Design and delivery of programs and services

# Icons representing various transportation modes: flight, bus, train, taxi, subway, light rail and boat.Transportation

# Four people putting their smartphones together in a circle. Information and communication technology



# Where we are now?

# DescriptiveFunding research [1 of 2]

* + The research we fund will help inform the development of standards.
  + To date, we have funded 24 projects on:
    - Employment
    - Built environment
    - Accessible communications
    - Information and communication technologies
    - Emergency measures
    - Accessibility in Indigenous communities

# DescriptiveFunding research [2 of 2]

* Examples of projects include:
  + Identifying barriers to accessibility in national parks
  + Environmental scan on accessibility standards in Indigenous

Communities

* + Study of evacuation guidelines for persons with disabilities in urban centres during emergencies

# DescriptiveCreating Standards [1 of 2]

* Technical committees creating standards for:
  + Built environment
  + Emergency egress
  + Outdoor spaces
  + Plain language
  + Employment

# DescriptiveCreating Standards [2 of 2]

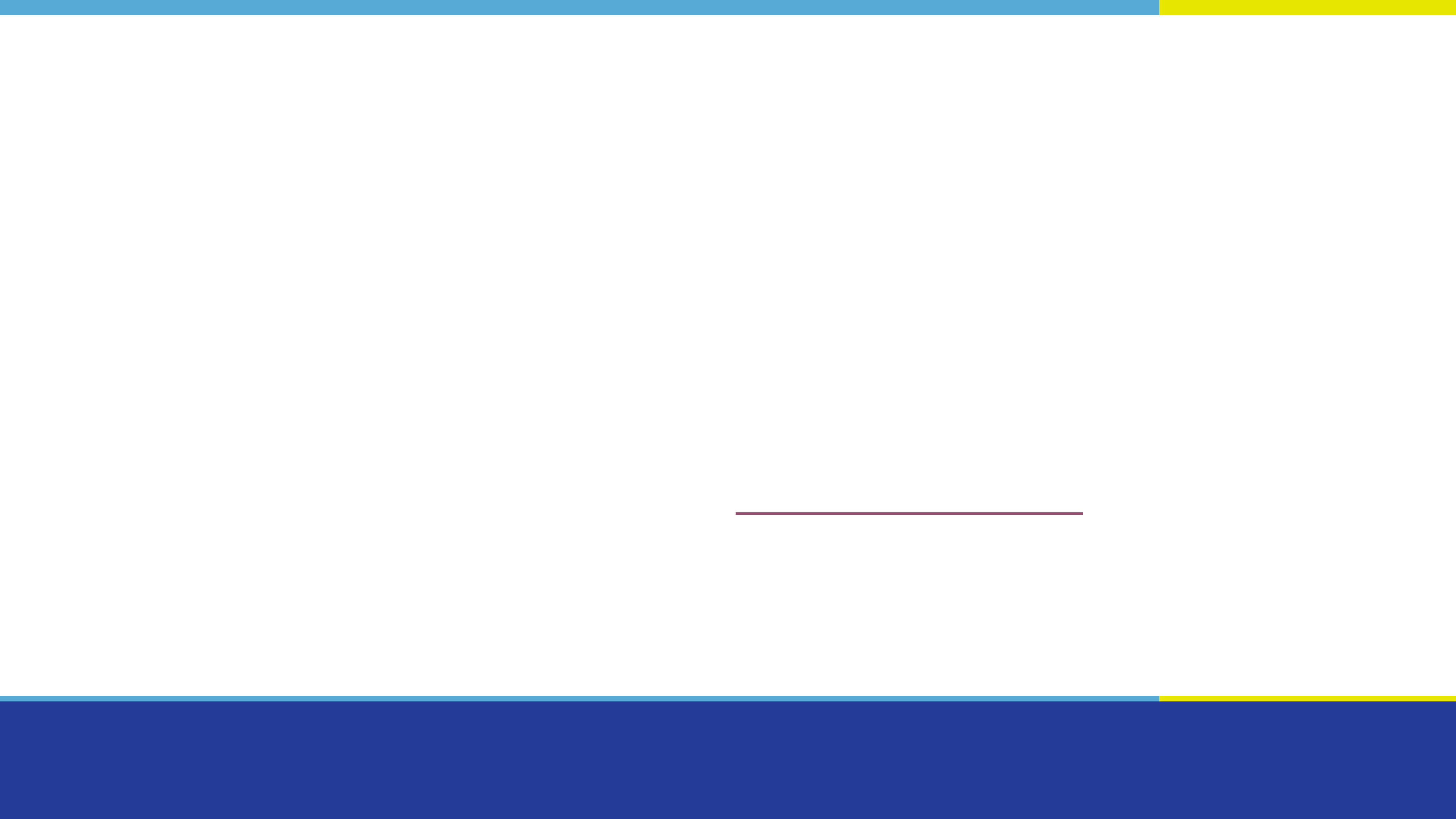
* Ongoing work with the CSA Group on standards for:
  + Accessible electronic payment terminals
  + Accessible design for the built environment
  + Accessible housing (with the Canada Mortgage and Housing

Corporation)

# DescriptiveGuidelines related to COVID-19

* Accessibility guidelines on emergency situations:
  + Return to work and work from home
  + Communications
  + Service Delivery
  + Inclusive emergency responses
* Created in collaboration with stakeholders

# Group of persons with disabilities in various positions, some have empty speech bubbles above them to indicate a thought.Consulting Canadians

**First consultations with Canadians**

* Closed our first public consultation on September 30, with almost 600 responses.
* Consultation report available on [accessible.canada.ca](https://accessible.canada.ca/consultations/priorites-2020-2022/consultation-report)

# DescriptiveOverview of consultations

* We asked:
  + How we should continue to engage Canadians with disabilities
  + Where we should focus our research and standards
* 65% of participants were persons with disabilities



# Key findings for engagement

* A flexible and accessible approach is key
* 81% participants preferred group discussions

# DescriptiveResearch priorities

* Top priorities:
  + Employment
  + Built environment
  + Design and delivery of programs and services
* Participants often raised the importance of intersectionality
* Involving persons with disabilities is important to research

# DescriptivePriorities for standards

* Top priorities:
  + Employment
  + Built environment
* All priority areas are interconnected
* Involving persons with disabilities is important for standards development

# Descriptive“Nothing without us”

* The results of our consultations inform our standard development and research priorities.
* We always want to hear from Canadians, and we will continue to work with you towards an accessible Canada.



# Where we are going: 2021-2022

# DescriptiveResearch priorities

* Accessibility in Indigenous communities
* Built environment, with a focus on heritage buildings
* Communication, other than plain language
* Design and delivery of programs and services
* Information and communication technology
* Procurement (buying) of goods, services and facilities

# DescriptivePriorities for standards [1 of 2]

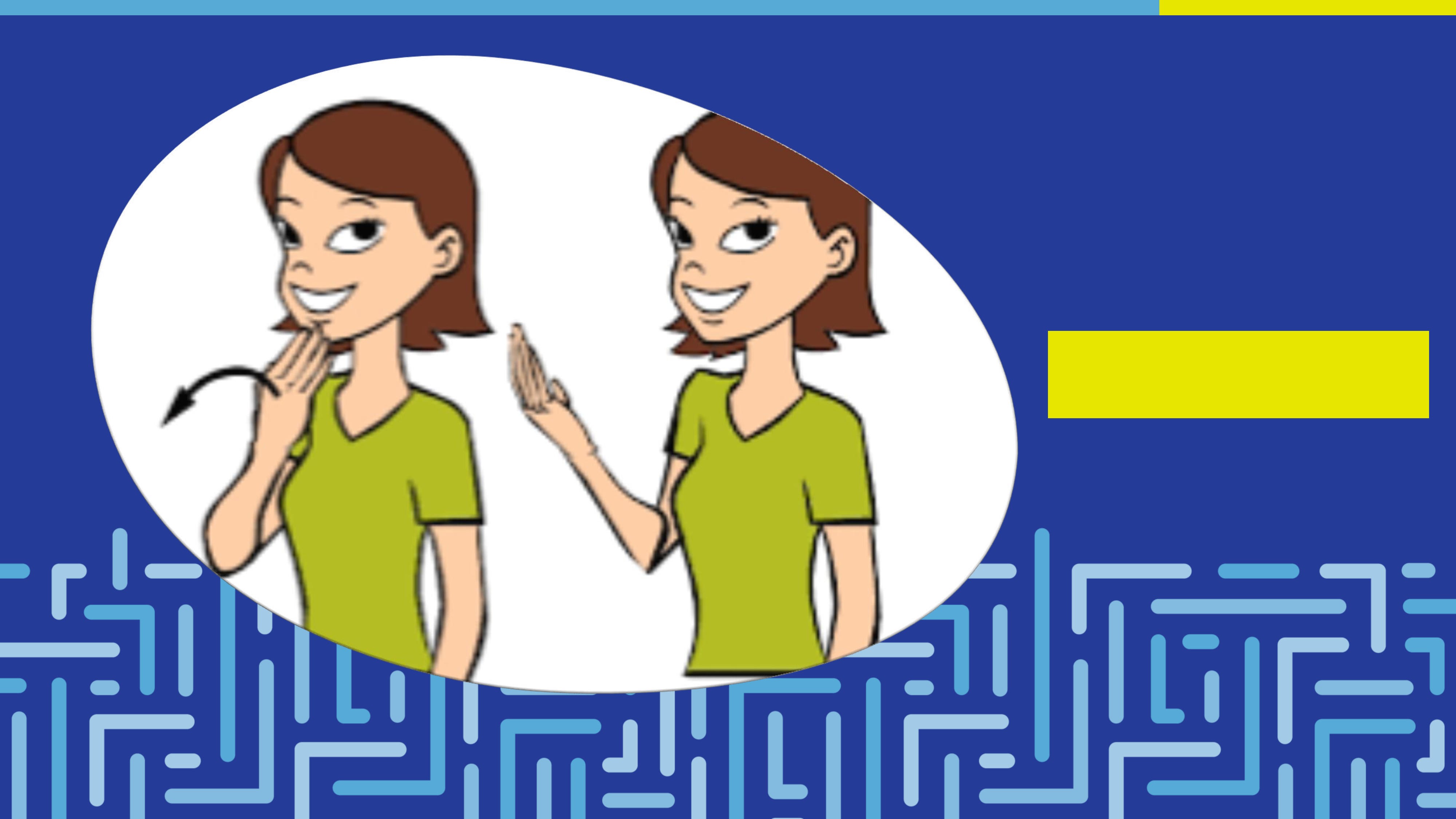
* We will set up technical committees to develop standards on:
  + Acoustics
  + Wayfinding (including signage)
  + Emergency measures (particularly during a pandemic)
  + Procurement (the buying of goods, services and facilities)

# DescriptivePriorities for standards [2 of 2]

* We will seek accreditation as a standards development organization.
* We will work with provinces and territories.
* We will continue working with other organizations to develop standards.

# DescriptiveConclusion

* We have a lot of work ahead of us.
* We are excited to keep moving forward with you towards an accessible Canada!



# Thank you!

# DescriptiveQuestions?

**Click on “Participate”**

**Or send us an email:**

[**ASC-NAC@canada.gc.ca**](mailto:ASC-NAC@canada.gc.ca)