# **Update on Accessibility Research**

## **Annual Public Meeting 2022**

## **Supporting Research on Accessibility**

We support and fund diverse accessibility research that:

* Identifies, removes, and prevents barriers to accessibility
* Informs the next generation of model accessibility standards
* Supports the establishment of a national network of accessibility expertise
* Engages with people with disabilities and other stakeholders
* Shares findings and best practices related to accessibility barriers and standards.

## **Priority Research Areas**

Our Board of Directors selects research areas based on:

* Priority areas listed in the *Accessible Canada Act*
* Input from our consultations, public meetings, and forums
* Input from provinces and territories
* Input from technical committee members
* Standards development areas prioritized by the Board

## **Areas Prioritized in the Accessible Canada Act**

* Employment
* Built environment
* Information and communication technologies
* Communication, other than information and communication technologies
* Procurement of goods, services and facilities
* Design and delivery of programs and services
* Transportation

## **Examples of Current Research Areas**

**Electoral process**

* Improving access to the electoral process for people with disabilities by removing barriers to running for office
* Providing help in managing election campaigns

**Improving access to communication tools**

* Enabling the exchange of information through sign language interpretation and optimizing documents and materials for use by those with vision impairments

**Other areas**

* Accessible outdoor spaces, retrofit of heritage buildings, employment for
youth with disabilities

## **Research Projects Funded So Far**

* 48 projects launched to date, led by:
* Not-for-profit organizations (50%)
* Research institutions (28%)
* Indigenous and other organizations (22%)
* 6 projects completed to date

The final reports on the six projects have been shared nationally and internationally.
Let us know if you would like copies.

## **Research Project Participants**

* People with disabilities have participated in **every** research project.
* Among all those involved, 66% were people with disabilities, including:
* Project leaders
* Researchers
* Advisory committee members
* Participants
* Research projects also included participants from other groups, such as 2SLGBTQI+ and Indigenous individuals, youth, and visible minorities.

Project Highlights (1 of 3)

### **People with Disabilities and the Future of Work**

#### Findings shared through accessible webinars that included closed captioning, transcripts, and sign language interpretation (American Sign Language and “Langue des signes Québécoise”)

### **Emergency Egress (exit)**

#### Included:

##### Creation of an egressibility matrix and egressibility assessment tool

##### Development of evacuation solutions for different combinations of disabilities and building types

#### Project information is available on an accessible web page.

## **Project Highlights (2 of 3)**

### **Barriers to Accessibility in Indigenous Communities**

#### Research results were communicated via the Indigenous Radio Network, reaching an audience of 484,000 Indigenous people across Canada

### **Accessible Built Environment**

#### Identified accessible built environment best practices from across the world, including Australia, New Zealand, Britain, and Ireland

## **Project Highlights (3 of 3)**

### **Employment in the Canadian Federal Public Service for People with Disabilities**

#### Explored factors that help or hinder career transitions for employees with disabilities who join or move within or out of the federal public service

#### Career transitions include onboarding, retention, career development, and mentorship.

## **Summary**

* Close to 50 accessibility research projects are in motion
* We are now reviewing expressions of interest for research projects
that will start in April 2023
* Look for our next call for expressions of interest in May 2023

## **Thank you!Questions?**

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