

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 - BURNABY
AGENDA**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 5:00 pm
Video Conference

Pages

1. Confirmation of Agenda
2. Accessible BC Act
3. Adjournment

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Committee of the Whole Report

Date: October 10, 2023
To: Board of Education – Public Meeting
From: Janice Nakatsu, Assistant Superintendent
Subject: Accessible British Columbia Act

Background:

The *Accessible British Columbia Act* came into effect September 1, 2022. It applies to prescribed organizations including school districts and independent schools as of September 1, 2023.

In 2019, the Provincial Government engaged in widespread consultation through an Accessibility Legislation Consultation Advisory Committee. The Committee concluded that British Columbians strongly supported the development of accessibility legislation and that more needed to be done to move towards an environment that was inclusive of all people, especially in education and employment.

Information:

The Act aims to increase all persons' ability to meaningful participation in their communities by attempting to remove barriers through the development of accessibility standards. To do so, the Act requires certain organizations, including school districts and independent schools, to make their organizations more accessible.

Key objectives are:

Increase meaningful participation in communities (including in schools);

Develop standards for improved services delivery in areas such as education including critical infrastructure like entranceways, playgrounds, sidewalks, accessible transportation, employment opportunities; and

Harmonization with other jurisdictions, including federal requirements.

A link to the Accessible British Columbia Act can be found [here](#).

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.



SD41 – Accessibility Act

Presented by Janice Nakatsu

October 10, 2023

Accessible British Columbia Act

The *Accessible British Columbia Act* aims to support the **identification, prevention, and removal of barriers** that people with disabilities face in their day-to-day lives.

There are more than 926,000 British Columbians with some form of disability – representing almost 25% of the population.





Accessible BC Act - Goals

- **Increase** meaningful participation in communities
- **Develop** standards
- **Enhance** service delivery
- **Harmony** with other jurisdictions

Accessible BC Act - Key Themes

Generally

- Breaking down barriers
- Advancing human rights
- Promoting fairness and equity

Specifically

- Increased visibility of those with disabilities
- Public campaigns to include those with disabilities in public systems, such as education and transportation
- Development of targeted education and training programs
- Increased integration in communities
- Focus on accessibility, empathy, and sensitivity training



Definitions in the Act

Disability

- An inability to participate fully and equally in society as a result of the interaction of an impairment and a barrier

Barrier

- Essentially, anything that stops those with disabilities from being included
- Specifically, anything that hinders the full and equal participation of a person with an impairment

Impairment

- A physical, sensory, mental, intellectual, or cognitive impairment which is permanent, temporary, or episodic

Requirements for Public Sector Organizations

The Act requires that prescribed public sector organizations establish:

A → an “accessibility committee”

B → an “accessibility plan”

C → a mechanism to receive feedback on the accessibility plan and how accessible its institution is generally

Scan the QR
Code to access
the BC Laws
Publications Page





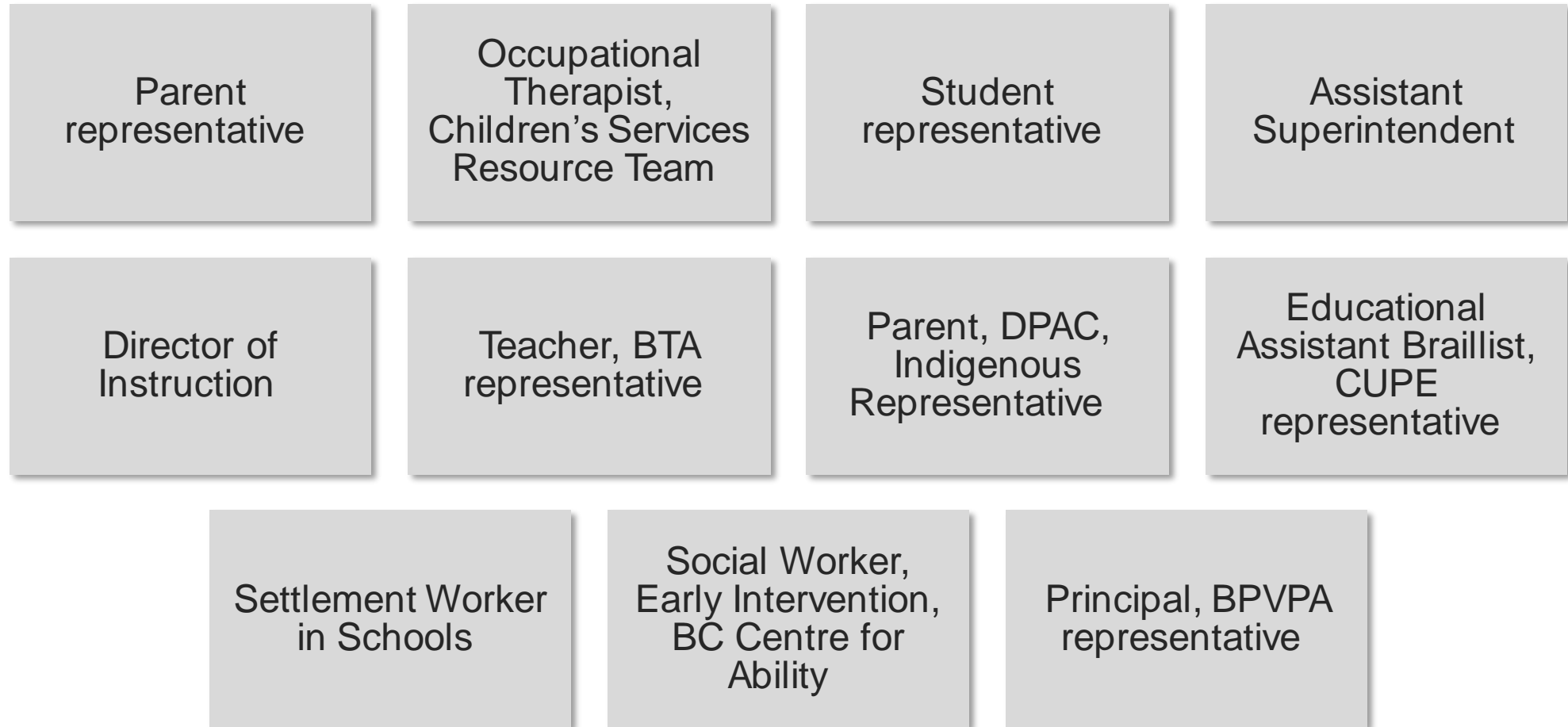
Accessibility Committee

Public sector organizations are required to establish an **“accessibility committee”**

The accessibility committee is required to:

- **Assist** in identifying barriers
- **Advise** in removal/prevention

Accessibility Advisory Committee



Accessibility Working Group

Director of
Facilities
Services

Executive
Director of
Human
Resources

Assistant
Secretary
Treasurer

Director of
Instruction

District Vice
Principal of
Learning
Support
Services

Director of
Information
Technology
Services

Assistant
Superintendent

On the District Website...

ACCESSIBILITY



ACCESSIBILITY in Burnaby Schools

Accessibility Act

The [Accessible British Columbia Act](#) provides organizations, including school districts, a framework to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility. The Provincial Government created the legislation as an important step to making BC a more accessible province for all.

Our Commitment

The Burnaby School District is committed to fostering a welcoming, safe and inclusive culture that benefits both learning and work environments for all members of our community.

Part of this commitment involves working collaboratively with the community to identify barriers for people with disabilities across our teaching and learning environments, workplaces, and community spaces.

On the District Website...

Accessibility in the Burnaby School District

The Burnaby School District has established advisory and working committees to gather information about accessibility and identify barriers in the district. We encourage members of the community to provide feedback in the following ways:

Online Form

Submit your feedback through our online form: [Start Form](#)

You can attach files to help explain the barrier you faced within the form such as:

- A video
- A voice recording
- Photos

If American Sign Language (ASL) is the best way for you to communicate, you can upload a video of yourself using ASL into the form.

By Email

Email your feedback to: accessibilityfeedback@burnabyschools.ca

By Phone

Please call us at 604-296-6900 ext. 661144

By Mail

Accessibility Committee
Burnaby Board of Education SD41
4054 Norfolk Street
Burnaby, BC V5G 0C3

Scan the QR code
to access webpage:



Accessibility Considerations

Building access: ramps, automatic doors, level access entrances and floor-to-floor access

Parking and washroom access

Meeting / appointment time flexibility

Play equipment

Screen readers or other adaptive technology


Transportation infrastructure


Snow and ice removal prioritization


The Accessibility Plan – Key Components

The accessibility committee must assist in developing a public accessibility plan.

The role of an accessibility committee is to:

1  **Develop** a plan to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.

2  **Establish** a process for receiving comments from the public on the accessibility plan and on barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.

3  **Assist** the organization in reviewing and updating its accessibility plan at least once every three years.

Priority 1 - Accessibility Awareness and Training

Objective: To increase awareness of our collective and individual responsibilities to create and maintain inclusive, barrier-free environments.

Barrier: Attitudinal Barrier

Actions: To begin October 2023

Priority 2 - Accessible Information and Communication

Objective: To enhance the accessibility of information and communication for all individuals, including those with disabilities.

Barrier: Information and
Communication Barriers

Actions: To begin January 2024

Priority 3 - Physical Barrier Scan

Objective: To identify common physical barriers by engaging all stakeholders in a barrier assessment of our district.

Barrier: All

Actions: To begin April 2024, from 2023

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping pattern of white rectangular cards. Each card features a large, bold, black question mark. The cards are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, repetitive visual effect.

Questions?