

BCDC members and Disability Summit participants, please see this important information about the Accessible British Columbia Act (ABCA) engagement process. The ABCA will apply to any “group of people, with a particular purpose. It can be a government, business, society or charity.” (Accessibility Service Delivery Standard, p. 5).

The draft standards under the Act are NOT STRONG ENOUGH, so it is vital for as many individuals and organizations to submit feedback as possible before the public engagement deadline of **July 31**. For example, the Service Delivery Standards, which apply to “government, business, society, and charity organizations” (p. 5), require organizations to remove accessibility barriers only if this costs “very little or no money.” Plus, the current plan is to consider penalties for failure to comply with the standards later on, but these should be part of the Act from the outset. Basically, as it now stands, the ABCA says that organizations should accommodate disabled people as long as it doesn't cost them anything but there is no penalty for not doing so. HUH?

What Can You Do?

FIRST, review the two draft Engagement Standard documents:

- **Accessible Service Delivery Standard:**
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/892/2024/05/accessible-service-delivery-standard.pdf>
 - Plain text version in Word (downloads): [Plain text version \(Word – 85 kb\)](#)
 - ASL version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2zMwYKDXwM>
 - Text-to-speech version: <https://nnels.ca/items/accessible-service-delivery-standard>
- **Employment Accessibility Standard:**
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/892/2024/05/employment-accessibility-standard.pdf>
 - Plain text version in Word (download): [Plain text version \(Word – 97 kb\)](#)
 - ASL version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2PseEJqVGc>
 - Text-to-speech version: <https://nnels.ca/items/employment-accessibility-standard>

NEXT, decide how you want to provide feedback. Here are the options:

- Complete an online survey about the drafts:
<https://feedback.engage.gov.bc.ca/555886?lang=en>
- Complete the Accessibility Feedback Tool to tell government about accessibility barrier(s) you have experienced or witnessed:
<https://forms.social.gov.bc.ca/or/fr/social/Accessibility-Feedback/new>
- Apply for funding to organize a community-led engagement session (**application deadline is July 15**):
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/accessiblebcactstandards/community-led-engagement->

[sessions/](#) and <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/892/2024/05/Accessibility-Standards-Engagement-FAQ.pdf>

- Provide a written or video submission
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/accessiblebcactstandards/written-submission-guidelines/>
- Participate in one of the Sector engagement sessions. You must register to attend one of these sessions: [Accessibility Directorate - SDPR Events - 13 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#). The Service Delivery & Advocacy sector engagement session will be on July 17, 2-4 pm – so register soon for this one!
- Here's an online summary of engagement/feedback options:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/accessibility/feedback>

Questions?

- Engagement: engageaccessibility@gov.bc.ca
- Accessibility Directorate: accessibility@gov.bc.ca

The time to act is NOW! We are stronger together!