

ACCESSIBLE BC ACT – REQUIREMENT TO COLLECT PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON ACCESSIBILITY

ACCESSIBLE BC REGULATIONS

Bill 6-2021: Accessible
British Columbia Act

Part Three – Accessible Organizations
(Local governments are one of 750
“prescribed organizations”)



WHAT IS ACCESSIBILITY?

(ACCORDING TO THE ACT)



- **Accessibility** is about having programs, services and environments that enable everyone to participate fully in society without barriers.
- A **barrier** is anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with an impairment and can include environment, attitudes, practices, policies, information, communication, and technologies.
- **Impairment** includes a physical, sensory, mental, intellectual or cognitive impairment, whether permanent, temporary or episodic

REGULATIONS

MUNICIPALITIES ARE REQUIRED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF PART 3 OF THE ACCESSIBLE BRITISH COLUMBIA ACT INCLUDING:

01

Establish an Accessibility Committee

02

Implement an Accessibility Plan

03

Implement process for receiving Feedback

WORK DONE SO FAR



- January - April 2023, City staff completed an **environmental scan** to serve as the foundation of the 2023-2026 AWP. Staff met with all Divisions and Departments to create an inventory of already implemented, ongoing and upcoming initiatives as it relates to accessibility.
- March 13, 2023, Council approved amendments to the **Terms of Reference** for the City's Committee on Accessibility on the committee's name, purpose, and mandate to better align with the regulations under the Accessible BC Act.
- September 1, 2023, the **ability to create an accessibility related service request and receive feedback on the AWP**, whether in person, email or phone was put in place in collaboration with City of Prince George Cityworks Committee.
- December 4, 2023, Council approved to amend **Terms of Reference** for the City's Committee on Accessibility committee on the meeting frequency (to quarterly) to align with the work the committee will be undertaking regarding their review of feedback from the City's Feedback Tool related to accessibility within the organization.
- January 8, 2024, Council received for information the City of Prince George **Accessibility Work Plan**.
- March 11, 2024 Council approved the 2024 Work Plan

ACCESSIBILITY WORK PLAN 2023–2026

Eight (8) Focus Areas frame the Accessibility Work Plan:

1. Employment
2. Delivery of Services
3. Built Environment
4. Information & Communications
5. Transportation
6. Health
7. Education
8. Procurement

The Accessibility Work Plan Considers the Six (6) Accessible British Columbia Principles:

1. Inclusion
2. Adaptability
3. Diversity
4. Collaboration
5. Self-determination
6. Universal Design

Twenty-one (21) Work Plan Actions Summary

- 11 Action(s) ongoing
- 10 Actions upcoming



Figure 1. Shows a line of Wheelchairs at the Jumpstart Multi Sport Court in Carrie Jane Gray Park

ACCESSIBILITY WORK PLAN 2023-2026

Prepared by: Civic Initiatives & Partnerships Division

"The City of Prince George is taking action to identify & remove barriers that prevent the full & equal participation by all our citizens in every aspect of community life..."

-Mayor Simon Yu,
2023

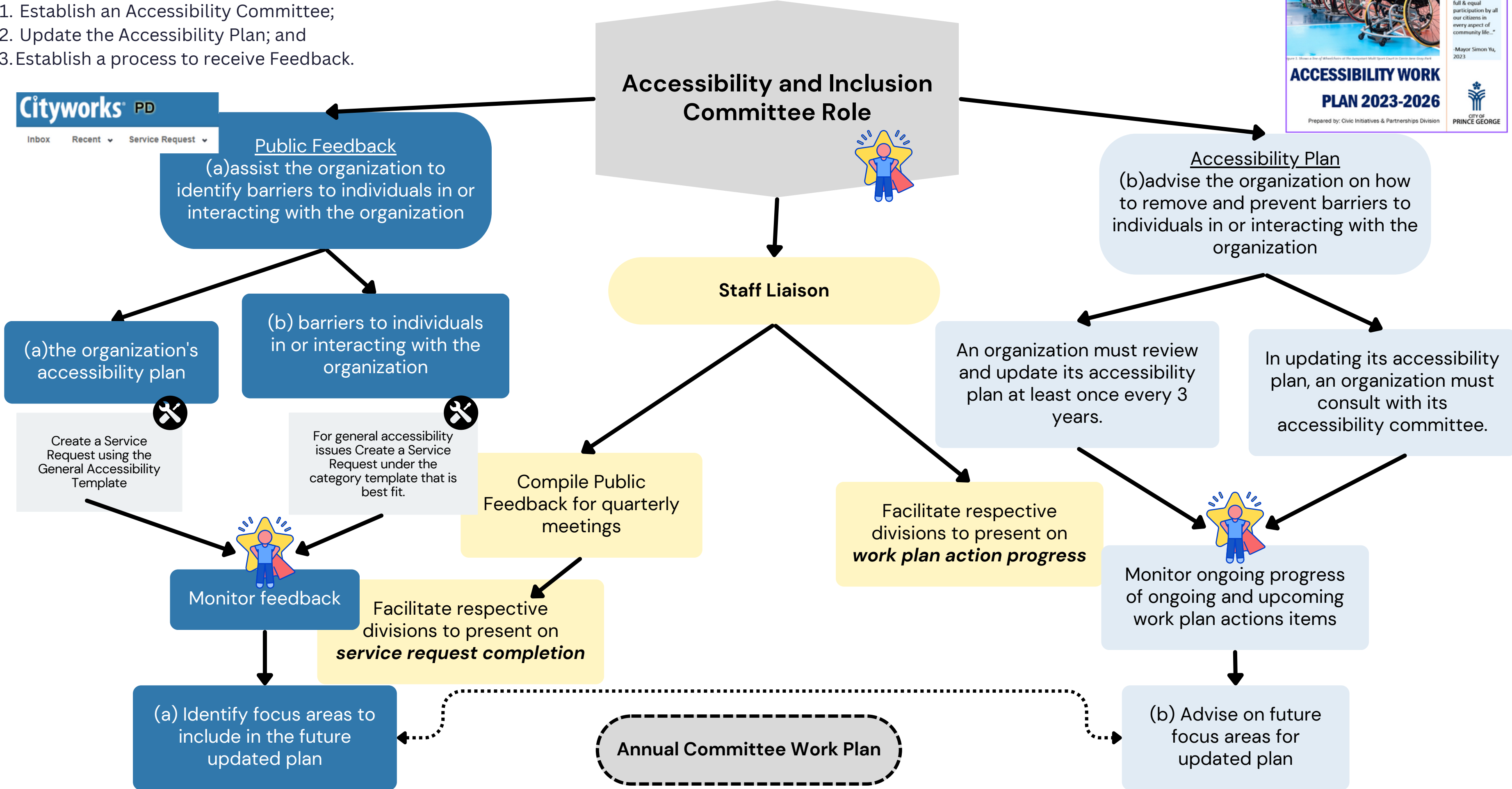


- The plan will be updated every 3 years.
- The Plan contains twenty-one (21) ongoing and upcoming actions to guide the City over the next 3 years.
- Plan will serve as a roadmap to guide progress and ensure accessibility is a priority for all staff. With the help from the Accessibility and Inclusion Committee, on-going monitoring of the public feedback will be done to ensure the Plan is updated, and that on-going progress is evident.

Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Framework Concept Map

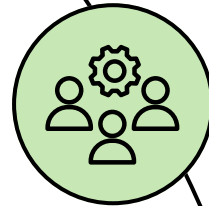
Goal: To meet the 3 legislated requirements in a way that interacts and functions successfully.

1. Establish an Accessibility Committee;
2. Update the Accessibility Plan; and
3. Establish a process to receive Feedback.



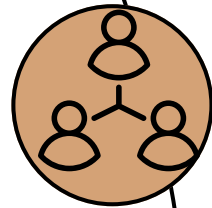
Proposed Timeline & Next Steps

Implementation and ongoing monitoring of the plan and feedback by the Accessibility Committee



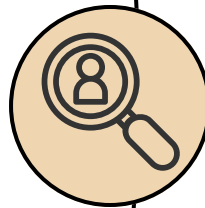
January-March

- City Accessibility Work Plan received by Council
- Review Committee 2024 Work Plan
- Council approved the 2024 Work Plan



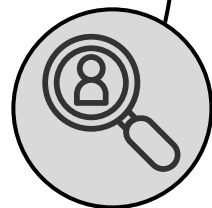
April

- Welcome new and returning committee members
- Orientation



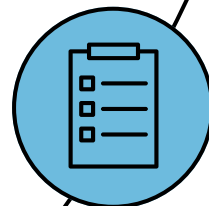
July

- Review City Works Data
- Divisions to provide update on work plan action progress and/or service requests



October

- Review City Works Data
- Divisions to provide update on work plan action progress and/or service requests



End of term January 2025

- Review Committee 2024 Work Plan
- Prepare Committee 2025 Work Plan



THANK YOU

If you have any questions or further feedback regarding Accessible BC Requirements, please contact maria.paulson@princegeorge.ca or at 250-561-7580