

Provincial Capital Commission Accessibility Plan 2026-2029

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Contents

Introduction.....	3
Accessibility Barriers	5
Physical Barriers.....	5
Information and Communication Barriers	6
Attitudinal Barriers.....	6
Technology Barriers	6
Accessibility Goals and Actions	7
Goal 1: Improve Physical Accessibility	7
Goal 2: Information, Communication and Technology.....	9
Goal 3: Community Engagement.....	11
Goal 4: Promote Inclusion	12
Goal 5: Monitoring and Evaluation	12
Goal 6: Follow Government of Saskatchewan’s Guidance on Accessibility and Inclusion	13
Conclusion	14
Contact Us	14

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Introduction

The Provincial Capital Commission's mission is to enhance pride and quality of life for the general public, tenants and landowners, users and future generations at two national-level sites: Government House and Wascana Centre.

Government House attracts thousands of visitors annually. Built in 1891, Government House served as the official residence and office of the Lieutenant Governor until 1945. Today, Government House is restored to the time period of 1898-1910. It has an interpretive centre, beautiful Edwardian Gardens and the working offices of the Lieutenant Governor. It is a National Historic Site and Provincial Heritage Property.

Wascana Centre is one of North America's largest urban parks and includes 1,900 acres of park space, a 300-acre lake and more than 14 kilometres of pathways in the heart of Regina. Wascana Centre is recognized as one of the top tourist and resident attractions in Saskatchewan. Approximately 400 community events are hosted in Wascana Centre every year.

The Provincial Capital Commission is committed to identifying, removing and preventing accessibility barriers for people who use our programs and services. To improve accessibility, the Government of Saskatchewan introduced [*The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*](#). Under the Act, the Provincial Capital Commission is a designated public sector body and must develop and publicly post an accessibility plan.

The Provincial Capital Commission engaged with people with disabilities and conducted best practice research to inform the actions outlined in this accessibility plan. In addition to an online survey conducted in 2025 to gather feedback on accessibility barriers at Government House and in Wascana Centre, we received feedback on accessibility barriers while engaging the public and stakeholders on the Wascana Centre Master Plan review and renewal (2023 to 2025), picnic site rejuvenation (2024) and public washroom renewal (2025).

The most common barrier we heard through various engagement activities was physical accessibility in Wascana Centre. Specifically:

- Existing public washrooms pose a series of challenges, including heavy exterior doors, narrow doorways and stalls, sink and toilet heights and lack of grip bars.
- Existing pathways are missing accessible curb cuts in some locations and soil movement has created accessibility and trip hazards in certain areas.
- Snow and ice on pathways during the winter can be a barrier.
- Getting to picnic sites can be a challenge, and existing picnic site furniture poses barriers for some people.
- Additional benches and seating options would improve user experience.

Feedback relevant to both Wascana Centre and Government House included:

- Crowded events can be challenging for people with disabilities to attend.
- Desire for more accessible parking.
- Websites, signage and other communication materials should be written in plain language.

Please note this accessibility plan outlines actions we will undertake over the next three years to improve access, safety, and enjoyment for all visitors to Government House and Wascana Centre.

This accessibility plan addresses:

- Information, communication, technology, programming, and ongoing evaluation for Government House and Wascana Centre.
- Certain physical infrastructure within Wascana Centre.
- Staff training and support.

The Government House building is managed by the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement. Building accessibility falls within the Government of

Saskatchewan's Accessibility Plan 2024-2027, [Goal 2: Make government buildings more accessible](#).

Lands within Wascana Centre are owned by seven government entities: the Government of Saskatchewan, the City of Regina, the University of Regina, Star Blanket Cree Nation, SaskPower, SaskEnergy and the Government of Canada. Because buildings are managed by the landowner, building accessibility is the responsibility of the landowner.

Accessibility Barriers

[*The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*](#) defines a barrier as anything that hinders or challenges the full and equal participation in society of persons with disabilities. Accessibility barriers are created when systems, spaces, objects and information are designed in ways that do not allow all people to use them. For Provincial Capital Commission facilities, programs and services, accessibility barriers can include physical barriers, information and communication barriers, attitudinal barriers and technology barriers.

Physical Barriers

Physical barriers make it difficult for people with disabilities to access facilities or other spaces. Examples include:

- Hosting events at a venue that is only accessible by stairs.
- Parking lots with no curb cuts.
- Washrooms that lack accessible stalls or automatic door openers.

Information and Communication Barriers

Information and communication barriers exist when information is not provided in a way that everyone can access or use. Examples include:

- Using small print that is hard to read.
- Websites and documents that are not usable for screen readers.
- Videos that do not have closed captioning.

Attitudinal Barriers

Attitudinal barriers exist when people think or act based on false ideas or beliefs. For example:

- Not including persons with disabilities in decisions that impact them.
- Making assumptions about a person's ability to communicate or do things for themselves.
- Avoiding a person with a disability.

Technology Barriers

Technology barriers exist when technology is designed in a way that is not accessible to people with disabilities. For example:

- Difficulty using devices like keyboards due to limited mobility.
- Interfaces that are not user-friendly.
- Lack of reliable internet to access information.

Accessibility Goals and Actions

Since the Provincial Capital Commission was formed in 2017, progress has been made on reducing barriers and increasing accessibility at Government House and in Wascana Centre. This accessibility plan outlines the actions that the Provincial Capital Commission will focus on over the next three years. These actions will reduce barriers that people currently experience. Actions will be prioritized through the Provincial Capital Commission's multi-year strategic planning, annual operational planning and multi-year budgeting processes. Implementation of actions may be subject to available funding. Achievements will be highlighted in the Provincial Capital Commission's annual report.

Goal 1: Improve Physical Accessibility

Physical barriers are the most common type of barrier experienced by visitors to Wascana Centre and Government House. The Provincial Capital Commission is working to make Wascana Centre and Government House more accessible and inclusive for all visitors.

Achievements to Date:

- Completed an assessment of Wascana Centre's formal pathway system to identify accessibility and trip hazards. Remediation work has been undertaken.
- Partnership with AccessNow to identify and map the accessibility of some of the following: pathways (material, width, grade, condition), amenities (benches, washrooms, ramps, accessible parking) and obstacles (stairs, large ledges, steep grades). The AccessNow app is free to download and can be used to search for specific locations with desired accessibility features and allows people to rate new locations on the map with tags and descriptions.

- Implemented BlindSquare beacons in Wascana Place, Government House and the Edwardian Garden grounds.
- Installed more than 230 global positioning system (GPS) points around the main walking path in Wascana Centre that speak to BlindSquare to help individuals with sight loss to navigate independently. The GPS points highlight features such as path splits, entrances, exits, landmarks, stairs, seating areas and buildings.
- Redesigned Government House parking lot for improved wheelchair accessibility.
- Installed an accessibility lift to the deck off the conservatory at Government House.
- Reviewed service standards for snow removal from roads, parking lots, building approaches and pathways and clarified priorities.

Actions for 2026-2029:

- Make progress on renovating existing public washrooms to meet building and accessibility standards in [The Construction Codes Act](#) and applicable regulations.
- Continue identifying and remediating accessibility and trip hazards on Wascana Centre's pathway system.
- Identify locations for additional curb cuts and install curb cuts in Wascana Centre, as needed.
- Identify locations for additional seating along Wascana Centre's pathway system and install additional seating, as needed.
- Explore opportunities to create barrier-free picnic sites in Wascana Centre that are accessible by a pathway.
- Assess the accessibility of outdoor spaces throughout Wascana Centre and the Edwardian Gardens at Government House.

- Assess availability of accessible parking spaces in Wascana Centre, noting presence or absence of clear signage and curb cuts.

Goal 2: Information, Communication and Technology

Signage helps visitors orient themselves and navigate through the Provincial Capital Commission's spaces. It is important for wayfinding and interpretive signage to be clear and easy to understand.

Many people access the Provincial Capital Commission's information through digital platforms, like websites and social media. It is important to make sure that digital content is understandable and accessible on the devices people use.

Achievements to Date:

- Installed wayfinding signage in Wascana Centre. The wayfinding signage project provides consistent identification, orientation, and navigation in and around Wascana Centre. It encourages visiting, exploring and appreciation of Wascana Centre's natural assets and serves all Wascana Centre users. For people with visual impairments, high contrast and large fonts improve readability. Consistent placement and height throughout Wascana Centre ensure signs are easy to locate and reach. Simple language and universal symbols reduce confusion and cognitive load.
- Installed interpretive signage throughout Government House and the Edwardian Gardens.
- Implemented a new website for Wascana Centre, wascana.ca, which enhanced visual accessibility, screen reader compatibility and better keyboard navigation.
- Designed easy-to-read maps for Wascana Centre that are available in print and on our website.

- Created easy-to-read guides on our website so people with sensory needs can be better prepared for their visit to Government House.
- Implemented QR codes throughout the Government House Museum.
- Added closed captioning to videos in the Government House Museum.

Actions for 2026-2029:

- Install clear, easy to understand interpretive signage for features throughout Wascana Centre.
- Complete an accessibility audit of wascana.ca and implement recommendations from the audit.
- Implement a new, accessible website for Government House, governmenthouse.sk.ca.
- Consider opportunities to share information about accessible activities, events, accommodations and other features at Wascana Centre and Government House through our websites and social media platforms.
- Ensure content on Wascana Centre and Government House's social media platforms meets current accessibility standards.
- Review guides and forms posted on our websites for plain language, and update, as needed.
- Explore options to create QR codes linking to descriptions of landmarks and sites of interest.

Goal 3: Community Engagement

The Provincial Capital Commission is working with community-based disability organizations and people with disabilities to improve physical accessibility and the accessibility of events and programs.

Achievements to Date:

- Conducted engagement on the Wascana Centre Master Plan review and renewal, picnic site rejuvenation and public washroom renewal and incorporated accessibility-related feedback into recommendations.
- Simplified language for guided tours, events and programs at Government House and Wascana Centre.
- Partnered with the Autism Resource Centre to create sensory backpacks filled with resources for self-regulation, tactile input and attention focusing tools to support children during their visit to Government House.
- Implemented sensory-friendly events at Government House with reduced noise and lighting.

Actions for 2026-2029:

- Engage with community-based disability organizations and people with disabilities to gather accessibility-related feedback on proposed major infrastructure and facility projects.
- Engage with community-based disability organizations and people with disabilities to gather accessibility-related feedback on events and programs.
- Partner with community-based disability organizations to deliver events and programs.

Goal 4: Promote Inclusion

The Provincial Capital Commission is working to reduce attitudinal barriers by increasing staff knowledge and supporting an inclusive workforce.

Achievements to Date:

- A number of staff have participated in the Government of Saskatchewan's Disability Awareness training, training from the Rick Hansen Foundation and mental health first aid training.
- Followed guidance provided by the Public Service Commission with respect to equity, diversity, and inclusion and accessibility.
- Supported staff through an Employee and Family Assistance Program and offered workplace accommodation, as needed.

Actions for 2026-2029:

- Make available Government of Saskatchewan accessibility-focused training mandatory for all staff.
- Explore opportunities for specialized accessibility and inclusivity training for customer service-focused staff.
- Review and update, as needed, emergency response protocols to be inclusive of people with disabilities.
- Review policies and procedures with an equity, diversity, and inclusion and accessibility lens, and update policies and procedures, as appropriate.

Goal 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

The Provincial Capital Commission plans to develop monitoring and evaluation tools to be able to track issues and measure progress.

Actions for 2026-2029:

- Develop a checklist and inspection schedule for staff to conduct regular accessibility evaluations of the Provincial Capital Commission's infrastructure, facilities, programs and spaces so that barriers can be identified and addressed.
- Develop a tool to track and respond to accessibility-related feedback.
- Develop a customer satisfaction survey to gather feedback on accessibility barriers.

Goal 6: Follow Government of Saskatchewan's Guidance on Accessibility and Inclusion

The Provincial Capital Commission plans to follow the guidance in the [Government of Saskatchewan Accessibility Plan](#).

Actions for 2026-2029:

- Use the Government of Saskatchewan's [Guide for Hosting Accessible Events](#).
- Follow the Government of Saskatchewan's accessibility requirements for [procurement and tendering processes](#).
- Follow the Government of Saskatchewan's guidance on equity, diversity, and inclusion and accessibility.

Conclusion

Accessibility is an ongoing commitment, not a one-time project. The Provincial Capital Commission is committed to improving accessibility at Government House and Wascana Centre so our spaces can truly be inclusive and foster community connection.

This plan will be reviewed and updated at least once every three years. The actions outlined in this plan are intended to remove barriers and improve the accessibility, safety and enjoyment of the Provincial Capital Commission's facilities, programs, services and communication.

As we move forward, we want to continue to hear from our community about accessibility barriers that impact their lives.

Contact Us

Please contact us to share any feedback, questions, or comments you have or to request a different format of this document.

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