



The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) aims to create a barrier-free Canada by 2040 and highlights the necessity for laws, policies, programs, services, and structures to consider the diverse disabilities individuals may have, their interactions with the environment, and the various forms of marginalization and discrimination they may face.

Our context

The Chilliwack School District is the eighth largest school district in the province, with just over 14,500 students and approximately 2,500 staff members. We have formed an Accessibility Committee to advise the organization on our accessibility plan. The plan includes identifying, presenting, and removing the barriers to accessibility that people face within the school district. Accessibility needs are unique to the community, thus understanding the Chilliwack School District story holds the key to understanding how we address the needs.



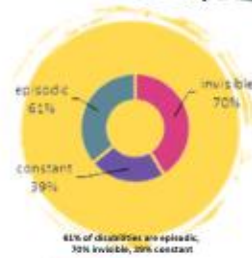
Principles Guiding Our Work

The Accessible BC Act incorporates a set of principles that organizations **must** consider when developing their accessibility plans, **ADAPTABILITY, COLLABORATION, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, SELF-DETERMINATION, UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

Our Framework

To systematically identify, remove, and prevent barriers within our environments, the District commits to exploring the five key standards:

- **employment practices** hiring policies, practices, and accommodations to ensure equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- **delivery of services** educational programs, curriculum, and teaching methods to accommodate diverse learning needs and provide inclusive education to all students.
- **built environment** audit facilities and make necessary modifications to ensure physical access for individuals with disabilities.
- **information and communication** entails ensuring that all District communications, including websites, documents, and multimedia, are accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- **transportation** accessibility, considering the needs of students, staff, and community members with disabilities.



LEARN MORE AND HAVE YOUR SAY: [HTTPS://WWW.LETSTALKSD33.CA/](https://www.letstalksd33.ca/)

Resources available: <https://bcaccessibilityhub.ca/>

Rachael Green

Assistant Director of HR

Jessica Adams-Loupret

District VP of Student Services

Co-chairs Accessibility Committee



Chilliwack
School District

ACCESSIBILITY

The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) aims to create a barrier-free Canada by 2040 and highlights the necessity for laws, policies, programs, services, and structures to consider the diverse disabilities individuals may have, their interactions with the environment, and the various forms of marginalization and discrimination they may face.

Accessible British Columbia Act Overview:

- The *Accessible British Columbia Act* came into force September 1, 2022
- Applies to school districts as of September 1, 2023
- Aim is to increase all persons' ability to meaningfully participate in their communities by attempting to remove barriers through the development of accessibility standards.





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.
 - (Episodic disabilities are life-long conditions, such as diabetes, HIV, Cancer, and Multiple Sclerosis for which there is no cure and some days are better than others. People living with episodic disabilities experience periods of fluctuating good health and ill health and rely on proper care, monitoring and treatment)

Requirements for School Districts:

- Create an accessibility committee to assist in identifying barriers and advise how to remove or prevent the barriers
- Develop an accessibility plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers
- Establish a process for receiving public feedback on the accessibility plan and identification of barriers to accessibility





Accessibility Plan:

- Identify, remove and prevent barriers within the District and for those who interact with it
- Must be reviewed and updated at least once every three years
- Must consult with the Accessibility Committee in developing and updating the plan

Principles of Accessibility

Inclusion

Adaptability

Diversity

Collaboration

Self-determination

Universal Design



Inclusion

- Refers to the idea that everyone in the District should have the same opportunity to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires
- Requires an understanding of the relationship between how people function and how people participate in society





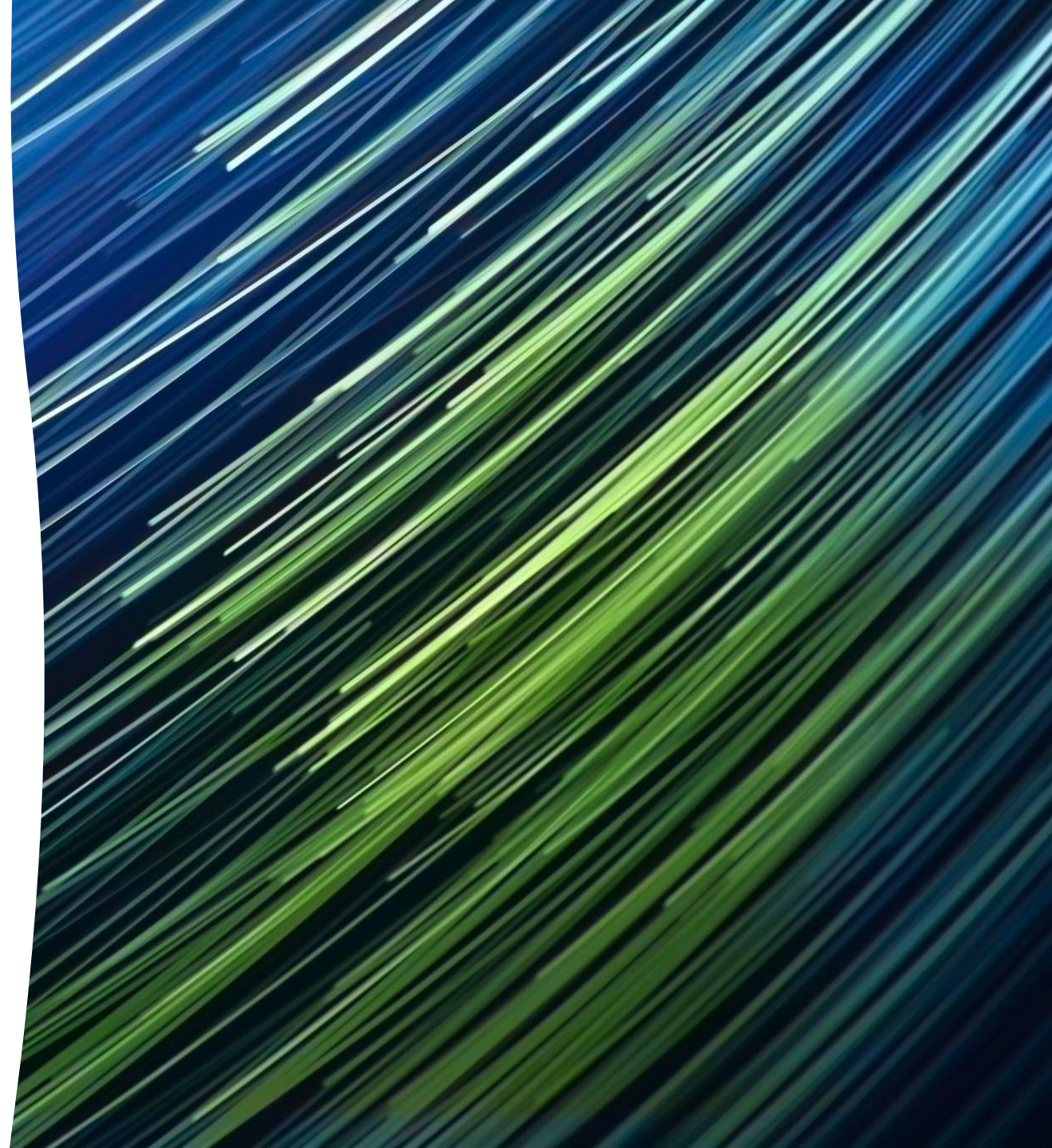
Adaptability

- Refers to an institution's ability to adjust quickly to changes in the physical and social environment

Diversity

Refers to an understanding that each person is unique and brings with them a unique heritage, perspective, and set of lived experiences

Disability is one aspect of diversity



Collaboration

- Means the action of working collectively, or together with a group, to produce or create a final product



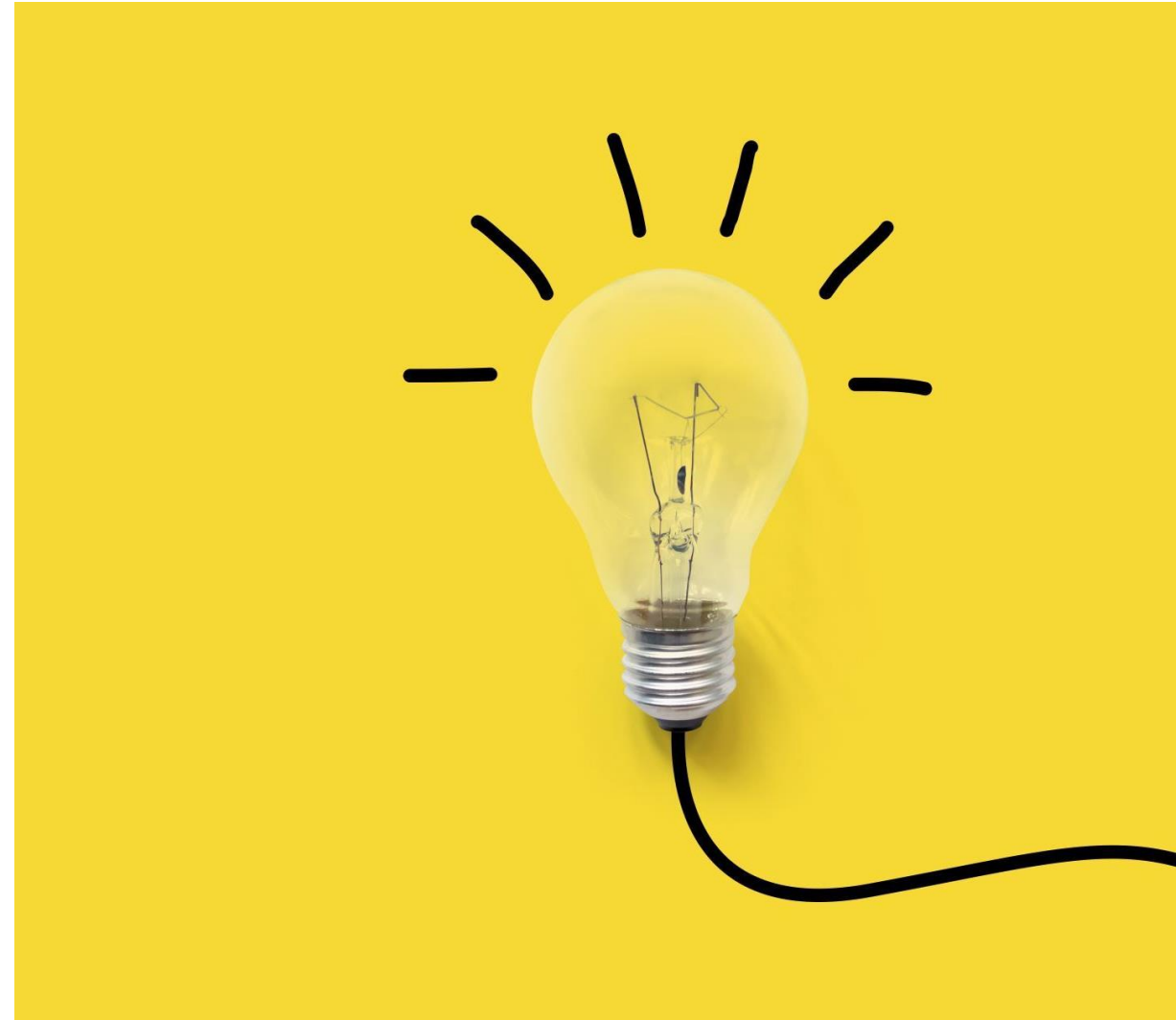


Self- Determination

- Refers to an individual's entitlement to freedom, authority, and supports to exercise control over their own life

Universal Design

- Refers to the process of creating products that are equally accessible to all, or at least a wide range of people who have differing abilities, disabilities, and other characteristics



SD33 Accessibility Plan September 2023

Please [click here](#) to view the SD33 Accessibility Plan

SD33 Accessibility Plan

September 1, 2023

Syos:ys lets'e th'ale, lets'emo:t

*(One heart, one mind, working together
for a common purpose)*



www.sd33.bc.ca

This is a green document, which means it invites feedback and is improved on continuously

To provide feedback, please visit <https://www.letstalksd33.ca/accessibility-sd33>

Accessibility Barriers Framework



Employment practices



Delivery of services



Built environment



Information and communication



Transportation

Priorities – 2023/24



Cultural Shift

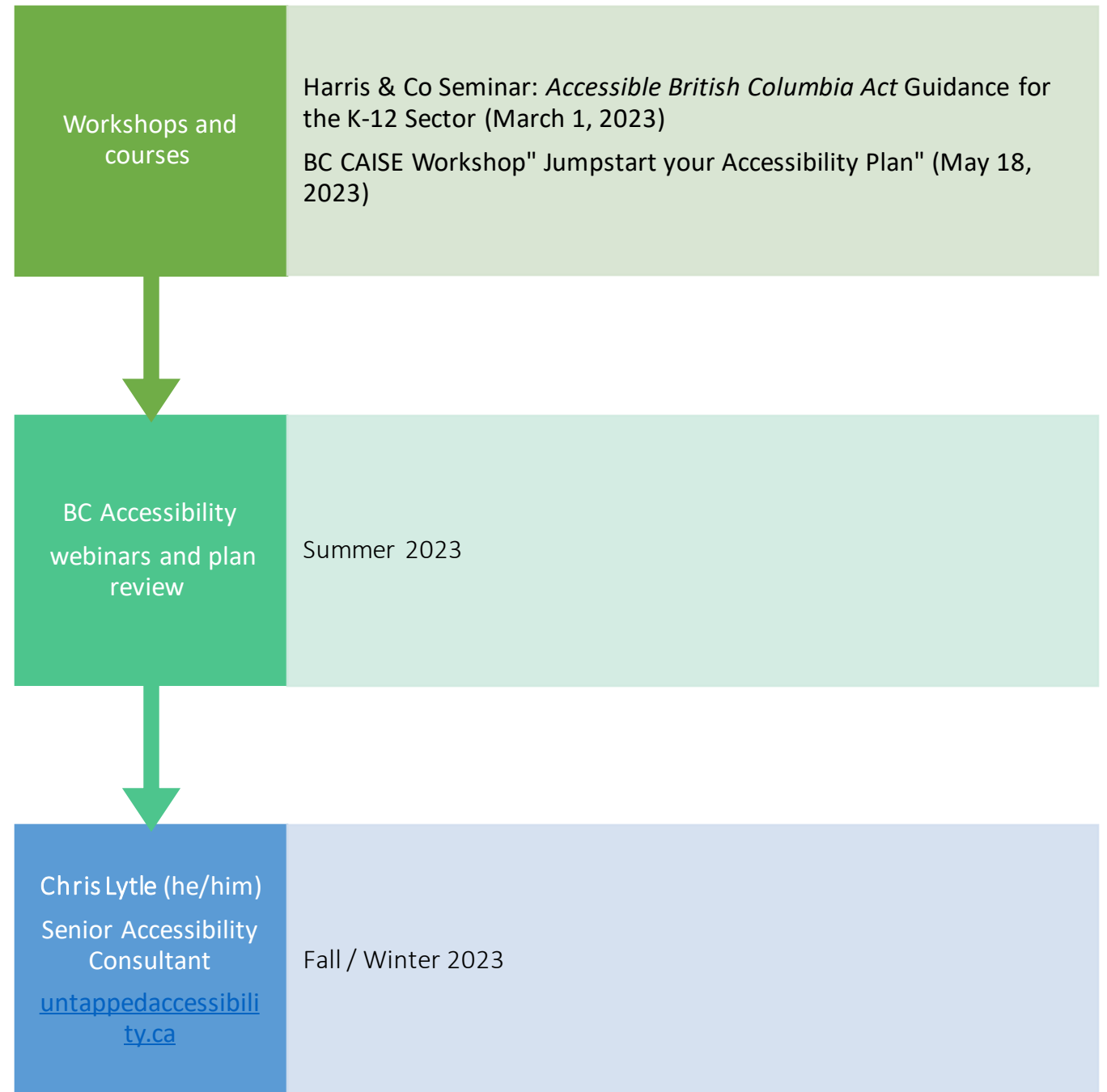


Barrier Scan of
District practices and
guiding documents



Raising Awareness

Consultation To Date



Consultant – Next Steps:

01

TARGETED CONSULTANT SUPPORT AND PROVIDE STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK FOR EACH OF THE 3 PRIORITIES IN THE ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

02

COMMUNICATION CHARTER/PROCESS TO IDENTIFY, PRIORITIZE, PLAN AND COMMUNICATE IDENTIFIED BARRIERS AND ACTIONS

03

CREATE RESOURCES, TOOLS AND TEMPLATES FOR OUR PRIORITIES, AS WELL AS PROVIDING US ASSISTANCE/GUIDANCE IN EXECUTING THE TOOLS.



Accessibility Act

sd33tech



Accessibility Act



Accessibility Plan
COMMUNICATION
Fall 2023

When	Who To	Who From	How
Oct 25	All Staff	Accessibility Committee	Connect 33
Oct 25	All Partner Groups	Accessibility Committee	Email
Oct 25	Public	Accessibility Committee	Let's Talk Site, Website and Social Media
Oct 27 (Repeat)	All Leaders	Core Group	Friday Memo
Nov 1 (Repeat)	All Staff	Accessibility Committee	Connect 33
Nov 3 (Optional Repeat)	All Leaders	Core Group	Friday Memo
Nov 8 (Optional Repeat)	All Staff	Accessibility Committee	Connect 33

SD33 Accessibility Working Group

- Rohan Arul-Pragasm
- David Manuel
- Jessica Adams-Louporet
- Rachael Green
- Olivia Pate
- Talana McInally
- Lisa-Marie Champagne
- Brenda Point



SD33 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2023/24:

Jessica Adams-
Loupret – District
Staff

Lexa Bergen – Parent
Advocate and Local
Community Member

Gabrielle Bond –
Student Advocate
and Local Community
Member

Melissa Kendzierski –
Parent Advocate

Rachael Green –
District Staff

Erin Newlove –
Parent Advocate

Karen Slingerland –
Local Community
Member

David Swankey –
Parent Advocate and
Local Community
Member

Holli Vander Wyk –
Local Community
Member

Lisa-Marie
Champagne – District
Staff

Talana McInally –
District Staff

Thank you

