



News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Canada improves accessibility of Town Hall in Sussex

May 27, 2019

Sussex, New Brunswick

Employment and Social Development Canada

The lack of accessibility in communities impacts the access of services and opportunities for people with disabilities. The Town of Sussex recognized the restrictions of Town Hall and they are working to ensuring that all individuals have access to the building for government services, the council chambers, and to attend public meetings.

Today, Alaina Lockhart, Member of Parliament for Fundy Royal, on behalf of the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility, announced that the Town of Sussex has received financial support through the small projects component of the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF).

The Town of Sussex is receiving \$63,040 to improve accessibility of Town Hall. The project will retrofit the municipal building by replacing the entry doors, constructing ramps and sidewalks, installing lighting and an automated door opener. The project will create an inclusive environment and provide safe access for community members and council members to the public meeting spaces in the building, regardless of their ability.

With programs such as the EAF, the Government of Canada is breaking down the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from fully participating in all aspects of Canadian society, ensuring that everyone has equal access and equal opportunity. Through the 2018 EAF Call for proposals for small projects, eligible organizations could apply for project funding for up to \$100,000 per project under two funding streams: Community Accessibility and Workplace Accessibility.

The Workplace Accessibility stream gives eligible organizations across Canada funding for projects that improve accessibility and safety for persons with disabilities through renovations, retrofits or construction of workplaces, including the provision of accessible information and communication technologies for work use.

The Community Accessibility stream provides funding for projects that help improve accessibility and safety through renovations, retrofits or construction of community facilities and venues so that programs and services can be accessed by persons with disabilities. This includes the provision of information and communication technologies for community use that eliminate systemic accessibility barriers.

Providing support to help persons with disabilities access their communities and workplaces is a key part of the Government's plan to create a more inclusive and accessible Canada. By tabling the proposed Accessible Canada Act in 2018, the Government is taking concrete steps towards the realization of a barrier-free Canada where all Canadians have the same rights and opportunities to contribute to society.



Quotes

“Canada is at its best and all of society benefits when everyone is included. Investing in the Enabling Accessibility Fund is one of the ways our Government is ensuring persons with disabilities in Canada have opportunities to participate in society on an equal basis. Through this funding and through partnerships with communities like the Town of Sussex, we are building a more inclusive and accessible Canada.”

– The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility

“Equal opportunity in our communities and access to services is key to ensuring our communities are inclusive to everyone. Thanks to the hard work of the Town of Sussex and with the support of EAF, the Sussex Town Hall will be upgraded so that all individuals can access the government services, council chambers, and attend public meetings safely. By working together, we can make Canada a more inclusive place to live, work, and play.”

– Alaina Lockhart, Member of Parliament for Fundy Royal

“This project provides much needed capabilities for access to Town services for residents in need of assistance with accessibility at our Town Hall facility. Our project provides upgrades to the entrances of Town Hall and will remove barriers to its access for those who need this assistance. Our goal is to provide all opportunity for all our residents to participate in services at Town hall, and to be part of the discussion in moving Sussex forward, making it accessible, and making our community as barrier free as possible. We are grateful to Employment and Social Development Canada and MP Lockhart in assisting Sussex become accessible.”

– Marc Thorne, Mayor of the Town of Sussex

Quick Facts

- Today's announcement falls under the small projects component. Additional recipients of funding under this component, as well as recipients of funding under the other two components of this program, which are the mid-sized projects component and the youth innovation projects component, will be announced in coming months.
- Since 2015, the Government of Canada has supported over 2,000 accessibility projects through the Enabling Accessibility Fund. These projects have helped several thousand Canadians by improving their access to their communities' programs, services and employment opportunities.
- Eligible organizations can submit funding applications through periodic calls for proposals.
- In 2018-19, EAF's grants and contributions annual budget grew to \$20.65 million as Budget 2017 provided an additional \$77 million over ten years. These funds have expanded the activities of the program and support more small and mid-sized projects, including youth-driven project proposals, to improve accessibility in Canadian communities and workplaces.

Associated Link

[Enabling Accessibly Fund](#)
[Making an accessible Canada for people with disabilities](#)
[Sussex Elementary School Accessible Playground Project](#)

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Backgrounder

Enabling Accessibility Fund

The Enabling Accessibility Fund supports the capital costs of construction and renovations related to improving physical accessibility and safety for persons with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces. Eligible recipients can apply for funding through periodic funding processes, under three program components:

The different components are described as follows:

- The **small projects** component supports small-scale construction, renovation or retrofit projects that have a quick impact to increase accessibility in communities or workplaces through grants with a maximum value up to \$100,000 depending on the parameters that are further defined under each funding process. Examples of types of projects are: installing screen reader devices and hearing induction loop systems, building accessible pathways and ramps, creating a controlled multisensory environment (Snoezelen room), and constructing a universally designed office.
- The **mid-sized projects** component provides contributions to support larger retrofit, renovation or construction projects of facilities or venues that house programs and services geared towards addressing the social and/or labour market integration needs of persons with disabilities in a holistic manner. For the 2018–19 funding process, organizations could apply to receive funding between \$350,000 and \$1,000,000. Eligible projects may include the creation or expansion of existing centres or hubs which offer centralized programming and services for persons with disabilities in their communities.
- The **youth innovation** component, introduced as a pilot in 2017 and as a program component in 2018, empowers youth to identify accessibility barriers within their communities and work with local organizations to develop solutions to increase accessibility and safety in community spaces and workplaces. Funding of up to \$10,000 is available to support capital costs of eligible projects, which may include initiatives like installing automatic door openers, constructing raised garden beds in a community garden, or acquiring specialized wheelchairs to access sandy beaches.

Recipients of funding under the mid-sized projects component and the youth innovation projects component will be announced in coming months.