

Provincial Accessibility Legislation

(Dates specify dates in which Act came into force).

Note: All provinces mentioned below have enacted accessibility laws. To date, as of April 1, 2024, Alberta, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have not yet done so.

British Columbia

The Act recognizes sign languages (American Sign Language and Indigenous sign languages) as the primary languages of communication for deaf people in the province. However, this Act does not apply to the private sector within that province.

<https://www.canlii.org/en/bc/laws/stat/sbc-2021-c-19/latest/sbc-2021-c-19.html>

B.C. June 17, 2021

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's legislation is not intended to apply to the private sector. Saskatchewan has envisioned that the government and its agencies will lead the way before it considers widening the application of this Act.

The Act recognizes ASL and ISLs as the primary languages for communications by deaf persons in the province.

<https://www.canlii.org/en/sk/laws/astat/ss-2023-c-19/latest/ss-2023-c-19.html>

Sask. May 17, 2023

Manitoba

This Act applies to both the public and private sector. In enforcing this Act, the Accessible Employment Standard Regulation defined "communication support" to include sign language, captioning and alternative communication supports.

<https://www.canlii.org/en/mb/laws/stat/ccsm-c-a1.7/latest/ccsm-c-a1.7.html>

Man. February 26, 2022

Ontario

Ontario's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was enacted in 2005 to set out a process for developing and enforcing accessibility standards in Ontario. It was the first province to have done so, building on the 2001 Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Under the law, the government is responsible to create the standards that all organizations (both public and private) must follow.

<https://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/astat/so-2005-c-11/latest/so-2005-c-11.html>

Ont. June 13, 2005

Newfoundland and Labrador

This Act applies to both the private and public sectors and sets out accessibility standards. However, unlike the other comprehensive provincial accessibility acts, it does not specify a target date by which all accessibility standards must be met; rather it provides for a statutory review within five years. Like British Columbia's Act, this legislation also recognizes sign language (American Sign Language and Indigenous sign languages).

<https://www.canlii.org/en/nl/laws/stat/snl-2021-c-a-1.001/latest/snl-2021-c-a-1.001.html>

Nfld. April 1, 2023

Nova Scotia

This Act applies to both the private and public sectors and sets out accessibility standards.

<https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/laws/stat/sns-2017-c-2/latest/sns-2017-c-2.html>

N.S. Sept. 18, 2017

Quebec

In 2004, Quebec proclaimed wide-ranging amendments to the *Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration*, modifying this same law enacted in 1978. Unlike the other provincial accessibility laws discussed in this section, this law does not apply to the private sector, and does not set out accessibility timelines.

<https://www.canlii.org/en/qc/laws/stat/rsq-c-e-20.1/latest/#document>

Que. June 15, 2020

Français

<https://www.canlii.org/fr/qc/legis/lois/rlrq-c-e-20.1/derniere/rlrq-c-e-20.1.html>

Que. June 15, 2020