



## Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 16, 2017

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**To:** Committee of the Whole  
**From:** Councillor Loveday  
**Subject:** Making British Columbia Barrier Free  
**Date:** November 9, 2017

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### Background

The City of Victoria has identified "Social Inclusion and Community Wellness" as a strategic objective including the specific goal of "making City infrastructure and facilities more accessible for everyone". This work has been progressing over the past 3 years with the creation of the City's Accessibility Working Group and the establishment of the Accessibility Reserve Fund. The City has also successfully brought a motion to the Union of BC Municipalities calling for a strong and effective British Columbian's with Disabilities Act.

The Government of British Columbia launched a non-mandatory, non-legislated initiative entitled "Accessibility 2024" in 2014 with the goal of making BC the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by the year 2024. Despite this progress, British Columbians with disabilities encounter a variety of physical, sensory and technological barriers as well as ones related to communication, education, employment, attitudes and many others. Although goals are important, there is no substitute for strong legislation that will make removing barriers the law.

British Columbia is behind the Province of Ontario and Manitoba which have enacted disability legislation. The election of a new Provincial government presents an opportunity for the Province to act to bring in new legislation that would make BC "barrier free".

### Resolution

That Council requests the Mayor write the Province of British Columbia to request that BC's Legislative Assembly enact a strong and effective British Columbian's with Disabilities Act.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loveday", written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Loveday

### Attachment

- Support for a Barrier Free BC