

Measuring UP Vernon January 2012

One of the goals and vision of Independent Living Vernon is to make Greater Vernon one of the leading municipalities in the Okanagan to become sensitive to barriers affecting the lives of people with a variety of disabilities and to take action on removing these barriers.

This report identifies dozens of ways to remove barriers and improve the life of people with disabilities and making every aspect of life accessible. The vision is to help Greater Vernon become a City where people with disabilities can fully participate and contribute and in particular, have improved access to information, reduce physical and attitudinal barriers, create volunteer and employment opportunities, and enjoy a better quality of life.

Key to the success of this initiative was to engage citizens, including ones with disabilities, seniors, community leaders, business people, athletes, associations and other stakeholders in conversations about accessibility, inclusion and attitudes.

The elements of accessibility and inclusion in Vernon, BC at the community level are, but not exclusive to or limited to:

North Okanagan Businesses

Parks and Beaches

Structural Improvements to Streets, Sidewalks and other areas

Public Facilities and Services Upgrades

Schools, Colleges, and other learning services

Economic participation

Community Inclusion



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Promoting a new perspective on disability

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Promoting a new perspective on disability

How many people with various disabilities are there?

Most of the current statistical information about people with disabilities is provided by the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS 2001; 2006). PALS is a national survey designed to collect information on adults and children who have a disability, that is, whose everyday activities are limited because of a condition or health problem (Statistics Canada, 2006).

The 2006 PALS, the totals include the Yukon, Northwest territories, and Nunavut, for a total of 4.4 million Canadians or 14.3% of the population are people with disabilities. The percentage in British Columbia of people with disabilities is 638,640 or 16% in 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2006).

Due to the amenities and weather, it is reasonable to infer this percentage would be higher in Vernon, possibly 18%, due to the high number of seniors in the region. Therefore, IL Vernon reasonably estimates that in Vernon (population 55,000) there are approximately 9,000 to 11,000 people with disabilities in Vernon.

Parking permits for people with mobility disabilities verify the person is unable to walk a 100 meters. IL Vernon is one of seven agencies in the province who issue the parking permits. Currently, IL Vernon has **4,425 active permits issued to residents in Vernon**. In addition, there are approximately another **4,500 permits issued to residents of, Coldstream, Lavington, Lumby, Cherryville, and Armstrong**. **Total: 8925 permits in the North Okanagan issued by IL Vernon to people with disabilities that limit their mobility.**

In Canada, there are 4,417,870 people with disabilities, and 2,946,160 have mobility disabilities in Canada (67%)

In BC there are 638,640 people with various disabilities, and 333,680 have mobility disabilities (52%)



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North Okanagan Businesses

Activity/Area	Outcome/Expected Outcome	Status
Downtown merchants, the DVA, the Vernon Chamber of Commerce, the Vernon and District Associations for Community Living's Health and Safety Committee, The Rotary Clubs and ILV	- Work with groups to provide Merchants with information on how to make their premises accessible, both inside and out	
MP Office	- MP's Office are not accessible to seniors and people with Disabilities	
Fruit Union Plaza, Highway 6 and 32 nd Street	- More graded cut-out ramps to access the mall sidewalk	
The Bay	- Install automatic door openers at entrances	
London Drugs	- Aisles need to be uncluttered and widened	
Canadian Tire	- Widen aisles, needs more parking for people with disabilities, turn-style device at entrance needs to be removed	
Kelly O'brians	- Needs automatic door opener	
Bean Scene	- Remove steps in the front entrance. Install accessible washroom (currently has a back alley entrance only and washroom downstairs)	
Fitness West	- Add more designated parking spots for people with disabilities	



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downstairs) Fitness West - Add more designated parking spots for

people with disabilities

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Gas Stations	- Need accessible washrooms. Need more full service gas stations, only two left in Vernon	- Letter to City of Vernon Nov 2011 to suggest bylaw for 1/3 of stations to be full serve - News Articles by CBC, Daily Courier and Morning Star - Connected with access committee in Kelowna and West Kelowna
Okanagan School of Massage	- Entrance door needs an automatic door opener	
Towne Theatre	- Need accessible washrooms. Ramp at back entrance is not inclusive	
Atlantis Waterslides	- Need access to top of slides. Needs larger, accessible family washrooms and change rooms	
Apple Lane Restaurant	- Needs an automatic door opener	
Dr. Friesen's Office	- Accessible parking spots are located on a sloped section of the parking lot making use of the wheelchair lift dangerous	
Tim Horton's (all 4)	- Add automatic door openers and enlarge sidewalks to access	
Starbucks (all locations)	- Need automatic door openers at entrances	
Interior Bottle Depot	- Extend pavement up to recycling bins to enable people in a walking device can access	



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	bins	
Creekside Medical Building	- Requires upgrades to make it more accessible	
Predator Ridge Restaurant	- Front entrance access (currently at the side of the clubhouse)	
Silver Star Mountain Resort	- Needs improvements for people with mobility impairments like accessible washrooms, ramps, paved paths in village and designated parking	
Restaurants and Stores (general)	- May have accessible washrooms but space before them should be uncluttered without spatial objects. Lower counters provide a more welcoming atmosphere and provide counter space for personal belongings.	
Welk Mart	- Unclutter aisles	
Center Point Apartments	- Make more accessible to wheelchairs	
Seven Day Adventist Church	- Needs a way to access lower floor from the main floor without having to use the outer door	
Future Shop	- Add more designated parking for people with disabilities	
Maharoba Restaurant	- Create smoother flooring to provide access to the accessible washroom	

Leadership:

Resources:

Indicators of Success:



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Parks and Beaches

Activity/Area	Outcome/Expected Outcome	Status
Kalamalka/Kin Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add boardwalks over the sand to create walkways for people using mobility equipment and strollers. - Upgrade/install accessible washrooms and accessible change rooms. Consult Independent Living Vernon for details 	- RDNO proposal submitted for funding, ILV provided letter of support
Vernon Parks (general)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create paved or hard packed trails to make them accessible to people using mobility equipment as well as for seniors, parents with therapeutic or regular strollers. - Add accessible picnic tables and benches. - Upgrade and install specific accessible playground equipment in parks for children and adults (i.e. 5 point harness swings). - Establish at least one central accessible park geared for all ages. Several organizations in Vernon support this initiative such as NOCCS, NONA and Independent Living Vernon 	- ILV has been meeting with COV in regards to changing the proposal to close road (2010 and 2011)
Polson Park, Lakeside Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrade/install accessible washrooms and accessible change rooms. Consult Independent Living Vernon for details 	- ILV would like to acknowledge the willingness of planning staff to work with people with disabilities regarding future plans for Polson Park



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Gray Canal, BX Park, Becker Park	- Provide some hard packed surface trails, consult Independent Living Vernon for details. Powell River, BC, currently has 13km of trail circling a lake.	- Updated accessible washrooms, fishing docks, cabins and picnic tables have been added.
All parks and beaches (general)	- Provide access to the various beaches on Kalamalka Lake and at Ellison Park through the use of existing service roads. Current access is far from the parking lots or has steep descents. People, for instance, with mobility equipment or severe arthritis or knee or hip disabilities require access	

Leadership:

Resources:

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Structural Improvements to Streets and Sidewalks and other Related Improvements

With an emphasis on accessibility, going green and getting active and out of cars, improvements to the streets and sidewalks will benefit people with disabilities as well as the entire community.

Activity/ Area	Outcome/Expected Outcome	Status
Islands at Intersections (examples Hwy 97 and 25 th Ave)	- Use flush to the road- open cut outs at intersection islands, similar to the intersection at the entrance of the Wesbild Center Other islands are created in such a way that inhibit people with mobility equipment from safely ascending or descending them; or they are too narrow, or don't exist.	- Met with the ministry of Transportation to provide feedback about changes to intersection at Hwy 6 and 97 in 2011
Sidewalk/Curb Cut-outs	- Curb cut-outs on sidewalks onto roadways - Design gradual graded cut-outs to line up with white crosswalk lines on the street. This avoids placing people with mobility equipment such as wheelchairs, carts, walkers or strollers, in the dangerous position of entering the intersection outside of the white crosswalk lines, and into traffic, to cross the street. For people with visual impairments, the cutouts require a lined-tactile warning surface and yellow paint on the curb. This includes areas such as intersections, parking lots, roadways and sidewalks. - All cut-outs need to be maintained - Tactile Cues for visual impairments - yellow	- Most new pedestrian islands do not have a ramped curb cut - The designs should be flush to the road



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	lines on curb cut outs are extremely helpful. Include these as regular structural maintenance.	
Pedestrian Signals at Intersections (examples include at Downtown intersections, the Schubert Centre area, along Alexis Park Drive, and intersections adjoining to East Hill.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timed pedestrian intersection signals, extend the amount of time given to cross the street. This is particularly needed in the areas used heavily by seniors - Signals should also be audible 	
Sidewalk (Roundabout at the Schubert Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Widen these to allow 2 people with mobility devices to proceed 	
Sidewalk (general)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People with disabilities use sidewalks as their livelihood - Remind merchants of by-laws to keep sidewalks clear of obstructions, like Sandwich boards. This will permit people with mobility equipment and people with sight impairments to walk safely - Sprinklers and Dogs increase awareness that leaving water on sidewalks and dogs off of leashes inhibits people from moving safely to their destination - Wider sidewalks and clear Sidewalks to have 6 feet in width of clear path to easily accommodate two mobility devices of obstructions adjacent to each other. 	



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