

Location: Downtown Vancouver YWCA, Welch Room, 4th Floor

Date of Audit: October 28, 2011

Website: <http://www.ywcavan.org/>

Address and Phone Number: 535 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC, 4th Floor, Welch Room

[Google map of the area](#)

[Link to the full access audit.](#)

Wheelchair Accessibility Rating: full / **semi** / non

Please note that I conducted this audit while riding my Ranger Scooter, which measures 44"long X 25"at the widest X about 48"high with me in it. That may give you a better sense of space.

Located in the heart of Vancouver's downtown core, the YWCA is, in their own words, "a volunteer and membership-based organization that serves the community at large. We are a registered charity and a member of the United Way of the Lower Mainland. We are a resource for women and their families and provide programs and integrated services that foster economic independence, wellness and equal opportunities"

The space at Hornby offers meeting rooms for community groups seeking accessible, safer spaces for dialogue and healing. The audited space, the Welch Room, is on the 4th floor. It is an open-concept space, with options for dividing the room in half. It has a small kitchen sink and counter with some storage, tables, chairs, floor-to-ceiling windows throughout, and an accessible doorway to the balcony. Both gendered washrooms have wheelchair accessible stalls. Please note that there are no sharps containers or scent-free soaps in either washroom, and the tampon dispenser and changing table are only in the women's washroom.

Please also note that there is not currently a scent-reduced policy in place at the YWCA, though specific events will have their own policies (for example, the Sex Workers' Rights Movement and Indigenous Communities forum on November 1st, 2011, has a scent-reduced policy in place, requesting that attendees do not wear scented perfumes or colognes). Refer to these resources if you'd like to learn more about how you can help create a safer environment for folks with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities:

A FAQ on MCS and being scent-free

<http://www.peggymunson.com/mcs/fragrancefree.html>

On making your event scent-free or scent-reduced:

<http://dualpowerproductions.com/2011/03/26/organizing-a-fragrance-free-event/>

On products you can use to reduce your use of scents:

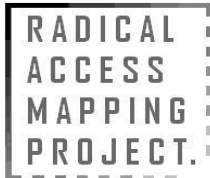
<http://eastbaymeditation.org/accessibility/scentfree.html>

Conducting the audit, I was unable to locate any wheelchair accessible parking. Though it may exist, it is not easy to find, neither I nor several staff members, including parking staff, were able to direct me. There is another parking garage across the street which may have W/C access parking, I plan on going back to check it out. There is drop off space at the front of the building, wheelchair accessible transit within one block (please be advised that the Burrard St Skytrain Station elevator is out of service into 2012 due to construction. It is quick and easy to use the Granville Station, which is actually closer. There are bicycle lockups right outside the building.

Event-specific information:

The Sex Workers' Rights Movement and Indigenous Communities forum on November 1st, 2011 will be providing ASL interpretation; has a scent-reduced policy requesting that attendees do not wear scented perfumes or colognes; and while they cannot provide on-site childcare, can provide a subsidy to assist with childcare expenses.

Contact Info: via the facebook event page <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=248484221868801> or the website: www.firstadvocates.org, or you can email us at Esther at emls@shaw.ca or Joyce at jharthur@shaw.ca.



Questions, concerns, additions, corrections, or kudos regarding this accessibility audit?

Please email: rampvancouver@gmail.com

Learn more about auditing, captioning, and the Radical Access Mapping Project here:

<https://radicalaccessiblecommunities.wordpress.com/>