

Village of Clinton Accessibility Plan



, 2025

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1. Introduction

a. About the Organization

The Village of Clinton is a small friendly community located in one of the most pristine natural environments in the world, while still being close and accessible to larger centres. Clinton is located on Highway 97, midway between Vancouver and Prince George. Clinton has a colourful history of over 150 years and was founded as a direct result of the “boom” of the Cariboo Gold Rush. This active community of 650 residents has a unique western atmosphere, stunning scenery, and an abundance of recreational opportunities. Incorporated in 1963, Clinton boasts hosting one of British Columbia’s oldest continuously running events; the Clinton Annual Ball, now held in May of each year.

b. DRAFT Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents of Clinton,

I am pleased to introduce our new accessibility plan, a vital step towards making the Village of Clinton more inclusive and welcoming for everyone. This project is one way we are working to improve the quality of life for all residents. By enhancing public spaces, upgrading infrastructure, and ensuring better access to essential services, we are taking concrete actions to create a more equitable community. Your feedback and participation have been invaluable in shaping this plan, and I look forward to working together to implement these changes.

Let's continue building a Clinton that truly serves all its citizens with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

Mayor _____

c. Message from Accessibility Committee

d. Acknowledgement of Key Contributors

The Village of Clinton wishes to thank all the residents, employees, and committee members who participated in the development of this plan. Your feedback and willingness to share your personal experiences will make this plan much more meaningful and effective.

e. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Village of Clinton and the Clinton Accessibility Committee acknowledge that the land to which this plan applies is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band and High Bar First Nation.

2. Framework Guiding our Work

a. Accessible BC Act-Principles

The Accessible British Columbia Act was enacted in June 2021. The Accessible British Columbia Regulation came into force on September 1, 2022. These regulations identify municipalities as accessible organizations, and require them to have the following in place:

- i. An accessibility committee;
- ii. An accessibility plan; and
- iii. A tool to receive feedback.

The Accessible British Columbia Act requires municipalities to consider the following principles when developing and updating accessibility plans:

- Inclusion – All British Columbians, including persons with disabilities, should be able to participate fully and equally in their communities.
- Adaptability – Accessibility plans should reflect the disability and accessibility are evolving concepts that change as services, technology, and attitudes change.
- Diversity – Every person is unique. Accessibility plans should acknowledge the principle of diversity within the disability community.
- Collaboration – Promoting accessible communities is a shared responsibility and everyone has a role to play.
- Self-Determination – Accessibility plans should seek to empower people with disabilities to make their own choices and pursue the lives they wish to live.
- Universal design – An accessibility plan should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to interact with the Organization.



c. Existing Policies

The Village of Clinton has some policies that relate to providing accessible services.

Sidewalk & Maintenance Policy

This policy sets standards for the condition and maintenance of the Village's sidewalks.

Workplace Inspection Policy

This policy establishes the system for inspecting Village premises for potential dangers and challenges to mobility.

d. Internal Values and Service Commitment

Values

- Respect. All members of the public, employees, and elected officials have a right to be treated with respect regardless of their beliefs, orientations, or abilities.
- Fairness. The Village of Clinton strives to provide services by fair and equitable standards that provide each resident consistent, reliable, and unbiased service.
- Inclusion. Ensuring that the Village of Clinton considers the multiplicity of perspectives and abilities is an important factor of major decision making.

Service Commitment

In adopting this plan, the Village commits to following the values of respect, fairness, and inclusion in its mandate to provide effective and meaningful services to residents, and a fair and safe place to work.

3. About our Committee

a. Our Approach

On August 23, 2023 Council established the Clinton Accessibility Committee and appointed a member of Council. The Village advertised in the local paper, on social media, the LED sign board, and other public notice avenues to reach out to the community. From these initiatives, four applications were received for the position. Council set the maximum number of committee members at 5.

Since the initial meeting, the Clinton Accessibility Committee has focused on the development of this plan, and the implementation of its feedback mechanism. The committee began by reviewing Village services, and building a consensus on the scope of this plan. The committee established goals for the implementation of this plan, and brainstormed ideas for the improvement of the community, while taking into account the need to include the voices of those Village residents who may be limited in their ability to communicate their needs through conventional means.

The committee discussed the barriers that the Village of Clinton might unintentionally raise for persons with disabilities who are trying to access services. A tour was conducted, and the results were brought to Council for consideration before public consultation was conducted.

c. Committee Members and Background

Councillor David Park

Charlene Boscott

Melissa Painter

Richard Armit

Yvette May

4. Consultation Conducted

a. Accessibility Tour

On Tuesday, September 24, 2024 the Accessibility Committee, along with three members of the public, underwent a tour of select Village facilities. The purpose of the tour was to identify and discuss solutions to some of the barriers that exist at facilities where the Village carries out its operations.

The following are some of the takeaways from the tour. The Village will retain the specific responses from the tour and will be referenced when upgrades to facilities are considered.

- Height considerations for wheelchair users – counters, toilets, picnic tables, coat hooks
- Space to maneuver for wheelchair users, especially on landings
- Doors - levers over knobs, installation and placement of push button entry, gaps and entry lip, sticking mechanisms
- Interior lighting - too high or low can both pose challenges
- Exterior lighting for pathways
- Signage - Higher contrast, larger lettering
- Emergency exits - wheelchair accessible, flashing alarms, large lighted exit signs
- Designated handicap parking spaces
- Stairs - Chair lifts, handrails
- Washrooms – More accessibility supports needed
- Parks – Wider access through fences for wheelchairs
- Gym and recreation – Accessible equipment, signage requesting feedback
- Seating – increased spaces along paths, hallways, and in waiting areas
- Exterior surfaces and paths – smoothing, weeding, path access

We would like to thank all those who assisted with the tour and shared their perspective. The outcomes of the tour will be incorporated into Village design and construction projects.

b. Public Consultation

5. Feedback Mechanism

a. Feedback Mechanism Development

The methods by which the Village should accept feedback on this plan and on the state of its accessibility practices and policies is important to ensure that each person has the ability to express themselves in a meaningful way. To that end, the Village of Clinton, in conjunction with the Accessibility Committee has considered mobility, visual, auditory, cognitive, and verbal impairments and disabilities in establishing the following:

b. Feedback Mechanism: a multi-pronged approach

In order to accept feedback on the Clinton Accessibility Plan, the Village will make all of the following available to residents and employees:

- A form available by request at the front desk;
- A page on the Village's website outlining all the ways feedback can be submitted, including by electronic mail;
- An annual public meeting at a place such as a coffee shop, where comments will be recorded;
- Annual advertisement in the Clinton Lariat outlining all the ways to submit comment;
- A service where residents can have their comments written by staff.

To maximize awareness of these feedback options, the Village will place an advertisement in the Clinton Lariat, place notices on community bulletin boards, post on social media and the Village website, and directly notify local organizations that assist persons with disabilities.

The nature of disabilities mean that no one-size-fits-all approach will work to assess the needs of the people of Clinton. It is important that all respondents are equally able to submit feedback on this important plan.

Feedback will be accepted at all phases of this plan's implementation and updating. Once feedback is submitted, it will be considered by Staff, then forwarded to the Accessibility Committee for consideration at the next update of this plan.

6. Action Plan

The following are a list of actions the Village of Clinton can take to improve accessibility. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but will guide maintenance and accessibility upgrades in the coming years. While most of the action items are allocated to Grant funding, some of these activities may be completed through taxation where it is feasible to do so.

In addition to the following items, the feedback received during the accessibility tour and public engagement session will also be taken into consideration when maintenance, upgrading, and new capital projects are undertaken.

Facilities

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|------------------------|--|----------|----------------|
| Village Office | Building upgrades, including push-button doors | 2026 | Grant-funded |
| | Research options for wall-mounted chair lift for stairs | 2028 | Grant-funded |
| | Conduct Accessibility Audit* | 2026 | Grant-Funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| Clinton Memorial Hall | Building upgrades, including push-button doors | 2026 | Grant-Funded |
| | Consider options for improved access to basement storage | 2026 | N/A |
| | Conduct Accessibility Audit* | 2026 | Grant-Funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| Public Works Buildings | Conduct Accessibility Audit* | 2026 | Grant-Funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |

| | | | |
|------------------|--|---------|--------------|
| 47 Mile Complex | Conduct Accessibility Audit* | 2026 | Grant-Funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| | Research options for wall-mounted chair lift for Curling Club stairs | 2030 | Grant-funded |
| | Purchase wheelchair-friendly tables | 2026 | Grant-funded |
| | Building upgrades, including entry ramp to Curling Club | 2026 | Grant-funded |
| | Consult with Facility users and groups on ideas to improve built environment and programming accessibility of the arena and Curling Club | 2026 | N/A |
| Fire Hall | Conduct Accessibility Audit* | 2025 | Grant-Funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| Fitness Centre | Conduct Accessibility Audit* | 2025 | Grant-Funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| | Improvements to entryway and washroom accessibility | 2026 | Grant-funded |
| Public Washrooms | Conduct Accessibility Audit* | 2025 | Grant-Funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| Playground | Consult with Parents and Caregivers on ways to improve playground accessibility | 2025 | N/A |
| | Install accessible playground equipment and surfacing | 2026 | Grant-Funded |

Roads and Sidewalks

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|---------------|--|----------|----------------|
| Maintenance | Annual condition inspections | Ongoing | N/A |
| Snow Clearing | Continue to support prompt clearing of municipal sidewalks and road shoulders in residential areas through operations policies and bylaw enforcement | Ongoing | N/A |
| MOTI Advocacy | Advocate for auditory signals at crosswalks | Ongoing | N/A |
| Mobility | Consider alternate locations for telephone poles | Ongoing | N/A |

Utility Services (Water & Sewer)

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|---------------|--|----------|----------------|
| Maintenance | Consider access to services when planning maintenance activities | Ongoing | N/A |
| Communication | Consider visually impaired residents when notifying community of service interruptions | Ongoing | N/A |

Parks

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|---------------|---|----------|----------------|
| Dog Park | Install wheelchair-friendly path | 2026 | Grant-funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| Elliott Park | Install wheelchair-friendly access to path | 2026 | Grant-funded |
| | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |
| Reg Conn Park | Annual safety and accessibility inspections** | Ongoing | N/A |

Cemetery

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|----------------|
| Pioneer Cemetery | Maintain and refresh walking paths | 2026 | Grant funded |
| King's Lake Memorial Garden | Ensure any new development or layout is accessible | Ongoing | Grant funded |

Licensing/Permitting

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| Business Licensing | Provide option to assist applicants in completing applications | 2024 | N/A |
| Dog Licensing/Animal Control | Update animal control bylaw to provide free or discounted license for registered assistance animals | 2025 | N/A |
| Building Inspection | Approach TNRD about Rick Hansen Foundation building inspection certification | 2026 | Grant Funded (Requires TNRD involvement) |
| Bylaw Enforcement | Provide training for staff in accessibility awareness | 2025 | Grant Funded |
| Planning Services | Review Zoning bylaw to consider CSA Accessible Parking Standards | 2025 | Grant funded |
| | Accessibility Committee to review Village plans and bylaws for accessibility concerns | Ongoing | N/A (Accessibility Committee) |

Communication

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|---|--|----------|----------------|
| Social Media, Signs, and Advertisements | Graphics should include symbols/pictures to assist persons with speech or language barriers. | ongoing | N/A |
| Employment | Village postings reviewed for inclusivity. | Ongoing | N/A |
| | Provide training for staff in accessibility awareness | 2025 | Grant funded |
| Other | Promote National Accessibility Week (May 26-June 1) | 2025 | N/A |

Other Services

| | Action | Timeline | Funding Source |
|----------------------|---|----------|----------------|
| Economic Development | Work with CCCTA to participate in Accessible Tourism Destination certification. | Ongoing | N/A |
| Advocacy | Council to consider the diverse needs of residents when advocating at UBCM | Ongoing | N/A |
| Fire Department | Ensure training for volunteers incorporates awareness of accessibility | 2025 | N/A |
| Emergency Management | Consider barriers to accessibility when updating emergency plan | 2026 | N/A |
| Website | Website Audit | 2025 | N/A |
| Trails | Review Trails Masterplan for accessibility | 2025 | N/A |
| Procurement | Research and implement Accessibility Framework in the procurement process | 2025 | N/A |

*Accessibility audits can be performed by the Rick Hansen Foundation or SPARC BC

**Inspections will be performed by Village Staff and designated members of the Accessibility Committee.

7. Our Plan

a. Priorities

- **Priority #1 – Infrastructure**

The Village will work to assess each facility for accessibility. Concerns that arise from these assessments will either be addressed or considered during the next update of this plan. Ensuring that our infrastructure is accessible is fundamental to creating an inclusive environment. This includes making physical modifications to buildings, improving access to public spaces, and ensuring that all new developments meet accessibility standards. By systematically evaluating our facilities, we can identify and prioritize necessary improvements, ensuring that all residents can navigate our village comfortably and safely.

- **Priority #2 – Inclusion & Communication**

Effective communication is essential for inclusion. The Village will consider how it delivers services to residents through a lens of accessibility. We will seek new ways to provide communication that is inclusive and work to dismantle barriers that prevent residents from accessing our services. We will explore various methods to enhance our communication strategies, ensuring that information is accessible to everyone. This includes providing materials in multiple formats, utilizing assistive technologies, and engaging with the community to understand their needs. By prioritizing inclusive communication, we can ensure that all residents are informed, heard, and able to engage with Village services and activities.

These priorities reflect our ongoing commitment to making the Village of Clinton a welcoming and accessible place for everyone. We will continue to listen to feedback, adapt our strategies, and work towards a more inclusive future.

b. Monitoring

A monitoring report will be produced on an annual basis and be delivered at the first accessibility committee meeting of the year.

c. Evaluating

The organization will conduct a review and evaluation of the accessibility plan every three years from adoption (2025). This plan will be made public on our website within 2 weeks of adoption.

8. Conclusion

The Village of Clinton is dedicated to identifying and removing barriers within our community. Citizen feedback plays a crucial role in this process and serves as an invaluable resource for our staff and Council during annual budget and capital project planning discussions.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the members of our committee and our other volunteers. Their personal experiences and insights have been instrumental in highlighting the challenges faced by those with diverse abilities. Their time, expertise, compassion, and empathy have laid the groundwork for this plan, ensuring it serves as a valuable reference for future conversations.