



# BEYOND BARRIER-FREE



## Accessibility Review Salt Spring Island Rainbow Recreation Centre September 22, 2025

## Accessibility Summary

This summary report provides accessibility-related insights of the Salt Spring Rainbow Recreation Centre offering current strengths and opportunities to further include all members of the community. This review has been prepared by Marco and Karin Pasqua of Meaningful Access Consulting (MAC) following a walkthrough completed September 22, 2025.

This report takes into account the perspectives of people with mobility, cognitive, auditory, learning, sensory and visual disabilities and is based on criteria developed by the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program and best practices offered by the CSA B651-23 guidelines.

## Assessment Scope

The scope of this report covers public and staff-only areas of the building, including entrances, offices, meeting rooms, washrooms, routes of access, pathways, parking facilities, change rooms, the pool, preschool space and emergency systems.

## Disclaimer

It is important to note that these are recommendations only, and not intended to replace any building codes, laws, or regulations. If in doubt, please consult a building code or legal professional.

MAC is not responsible for changes to the building or venue that happens as a result of this report. The owner, tenant, manager, or operator of the building or venue should use discretion when taking any action arising from this report.

## OVERVIEW

The Salt Spring Island Rainbow Recreation Centre (RRC) continues to be a cornerstone of community life, providing accessible recreation, social connection, and wellness opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities. As one of the island's most active gathering spaces, the facility plays an essential role in promoting health, inclusion, and belonging through recreation and shared experience.

Over the years, the Rainbow Recreation Centre has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community, offering a range of programs including aquatics, fitness, preschool activities, and community events. While the Centre primarily focuses on aquatics, it also offers adaptable spaces and an on-site preschool that support diverse programming and participation.

From an accessibility perspective, the building demonstrates a strong foundation, with accessible routes of travel, wide open gathering spaces, and thoughtful updates to washrooms and changerooms—including a universal changeroom and an accessible changeroom and shower equipped with an adult-sized change bench. The facility's commitment to continuous improvement is evident in both recent upgrades and future planning discussions, particularly those focused on lighting, sensory inclusion, and adaptive programming.

The site has hosted sensory-friendly swims, and staff have implemented many features that increase accessibility into and out of the pool and hot tub. The lift is well maintained, user-friendly, and provides safe, comfortable access to the aquatic amenities.

As the community continues to grow, opportunities remain to enhance accessibility, comfort, wayfinding, and sensory experience across key areas—from changerooms (including reconfiguring grab bars, adjusting door swings, and installing automatic door operators) to circulation paths, the pool deck, and spectator areas. A key recommendation in this report is to replace the fluorescent lighting with low-flicker LED fixtures, as the current lighting is uncomfortable for many community members.

The recommendations outlined in this report highlight practical next steps that build upon the Centre's existing strengths, ensuring it remains a model of inclusion, safety, and meaningful access for Salt Spring Island residents for years to come.

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## Parking & Approach

### Parking Lot

- ✔ The signage leading to the site is obvious from the main road with a large sign that includes the name of the building and the address.
- ✔ The parking surfaces are generally level, firm, non-slip and without significant slope despite being a packed gravel lot. The ground does not appear to have significant pooling areas.
- ✔ There is a designated drop off area immediately out front of the entrance.
- ✔ There are several designated accessible stalls which are marked using vertical pole signage allowing for the stall to be easily visible at a distance.

### Entrance & Wayfinding

- ✔ Access to the entrance is via a level and flush entrance threshold without the need for a ramp or set of stairs creating equal access for all.
- ✔ The sidewalk in front of the entrance is a complete curb ramp creating a path of travel directly to the parking lot.
- ✔ There is large, visible signage on the exterior of the building that provides the name of the building.
  - ✔ It is high contrast and easily visible from the parking lot.
- ✔ The main entry is covered with a large canopy offering weather protection.
- ✔ The main entrance doors have high visual contrast ensuring that they're easily seen at a distance and easy to identify.
- ✔ The glazing at the entrance doors and surrounding wall area allows for significant light to enter the facility and manage the lighting difference between the exterior and interior spaces.
  - ✔ Such gradual light adaptation is particularly beneficial for individuals with low vision, older adults, or anyone sensitive to sudden changes in brightness. By minimizing visual strain and improving overall visibility, the glazing enhances both comfort and safety at the main entry.

## Entrance – Continued

- ✔ The main door is operable with an automatic door operator, located to the right of the door, out of the door swing.
- ✔ Bicycle parking is provided near the portico and out of the way of the path of travel.
- ✔ There is a power outlet near the bicycle parking area which could be used by someone with a power wheelchair or mobility scooter aiding with managing the distance from public transportation.





## Barriers & Recommendations: Parking & Approach

### Entrance & Wayfinding

#### Recommendations:

- The automatic door is recommended to include a decal indicating which door will be opened when the operator button is pushed. Without a clear decal, a person may position themselves incorrectly or be startled by unexpected door movement, creating confusion or potential collision. The decal provides a clear visual cue, improving predictability, safety, and user confidence when approaching and operating the automatic door.



### Accessible Parking Stalls

#### Recommendations:

- If ever updating the parking lot, it's highly recommended for the parking lot to be paved and for the accessible stalls to include pavement decals with the dynamic accessibility symbol with a blue square to increase contrast and visibility at a distance.

#### Best Practices:

- Accessible parking stalls should be at least **2600 mm** wide with an adjacent access aisle of **2000 mm** wide for stalls perpendicular to the roadway.



### Accessibility Idea

Let the public know of the power outlet available at the entrance of the Rainbow Recreation Centre. The feature might be very useful to know about for people using mobility devices or considering purchasing an e-bike for transportation.

Consider allowing mobility scooters and power wheelchairs to charge for free.



## Lobby & Reception

- ✓ The lobby itself is a generous and bright space that is welcoming and well-lit. thanks to large windows around the front door and through the aquatics area as well as ample artificial lighting.
  - ✓ The lobby lighting is consistent and even managing the difference between the indoors and outdoors very well.
- ✓ The main amenities including public washrooms, changerooms and access to the aquatics area is easily visible from the entrance doors and directly off of the main lobby.
  - ✓ An accessible washroom is found immediately off of the lobby.
- ✓ Seating with backrests is provided in the lobby, with options for people to pull up at tables.
- ✓ Additional benches are provided, particularly near the areas for boot and shoe storage, allowing for someone to have support with putting on and taking off their shoes.
  - ✓ Seating is placed in such a way that spectators can view the aquatics area without necessarily going into the area.

## Reception

- ✓ The reception desk is clearly marked with overhead signage as well as being visually contrasted from the walls and floor.
- ✓ The reception desk features an area of lowered countertop allowing for people shorter in stature or seated to receive service at a height that works well for them.
- ✓ The staff area is equipped with ergonomic chairs and areas with knee clearance.
- ✓ Storage is at a variety of heights and a counter that is accessible in height.





## Barriers & Recommendations: Lobby & Reception

### Reception

- The current placement of the printer at the lowered counter creates a barrier for access from the intended purpose of the lowered counter area. It also makes the printer controls rather high for individuals who are shorter in stature.

#### Recommendations:

- Place the printer in another area of the reception and administration space so that the lowered counter area is left clear for information sharing between staff and a seated user or user who is shorter in stature.
- Ensure that staff understand the intention of the lowered counter so that it remains free and clear of any clutter.
- Staff who are taller or who use a mobility device may require the under-the-desk keyboard tray removed. It's highly recommended to review the ergonomic set up of the reception desk for staff and ensure it is a comfortable work-space for long periods of time.

#### Long-Term:

- If or when reconfiguring the reception desk, it's best practice to include knee clearance area at the lowered counter area to allow someone who uses a mobility device to pull up and complete forms, receive information etc.
  - Ideally we recommend this to be right up front at the centre of a reception desk so it's not seen as an after-through.



## Circulation

### Navigation

- ✔ Circulating around the facility is generally quite logical and straightforward with the primary amenities being directly off the reception lobby.
- ✔ All of the amenities are accessible by someone with a disability as this facility has no change in level.

### Building Controls

- ✔ Building controls (heat, lighting, AV, door operators, etc.) are generally mounted at accessible heights.
- ✔ Controls are generally easy to use without the need for fine dexterity.
- ✔ Door handles are generally lever-style which are easier for people to use as they don't require a turning of the wrist and more intuitive during emergencies.

### Lighting and Contrast

- ✔ There is ample lighting throughout the facility including overhead lighting and natural lighting thanks to the significant use of windows, particularly in the aquatics area..
  - ✔ The windows allow access and connection with nature and daylight.
  - ✔ No strobing or flickering was noticed.
- ✔ Contrast is strong throughout the building including between the floors, walls and trim. Dark trim provides high contrasted to the light-coloured walls and colourful floorings.

### Doors

- ✔ Where doors have been upgraded, vision panels are full-length ensuring that people of all heights can see through the window.
- ✔ Many doors swing inwards and out of the path of travel.

### Flooring

- ✔ The flooring features a non-slip surface with limited glare.



## Barriers & Recommendations: Circulation

### Lighting and Contrast

- Some individuals who are neurodiverse can see the flicker of the fluorescent lighting, creating additional extra-sensory input which can be very difficult for some. Additionally, fluorescent lighting is known to cause headaches and increase feelings of anxiety and malaise. Fluorescent lights, especially older or poorly maintained ones, can produce electromagnetic interference (EMI) that affects the performance of hearing aids and other assistive listening devices. This EMI can cause a buzzing, humming, or static sound in the hearing aid, which is not only annoying but can also make it harder for the user to hear and understand speech.
- The bright, directional nature of LED lighting can sometimes create harsh glare, especially if the fixtures aren't properly shielded or positioned. This can lead to visual discomfort and reduced contrast perception. Ensure that all LED lighting is properly shielded or angled in such a way to reduce glare on wayfinding, computer screens, glazing etc.

#### Recommendation:

- It's recommended to swap any non-LED light bulbs for LED models, particularly those that have a flicker rate of at least 1000 Hz. At this rate, individuals with heightened sensory sensitivities are unlikely to pick up on the flickering effects.



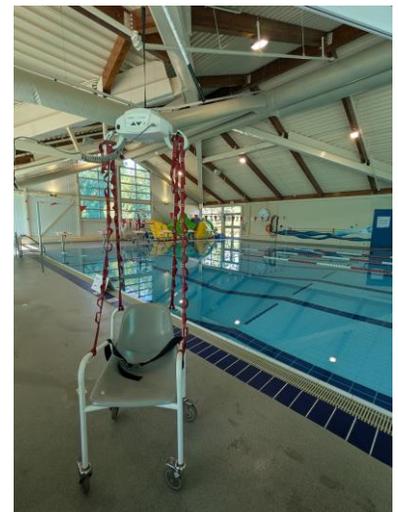
# Pool & Aquatic Amenities

## Circulation

- ✔ The pool viewing deck is accessible through doors leading from the lobby leading to a viewing area or via the changerooms.
- ✔ Key locations including the change room and first aid room are highly visible at a distance thanks to the large signage.
- ✔ The viewing area has chairs and bench seating providing comfortable places for individuals to watch and wait for members of their party.
  - ✔ The viewing area also has a low banister that does not impede the sight lines for someone seated.
- ✔ The pool deck provides ample space for two people to pass and as without any slope or cross slope.
- ✔ There are large windows, with a film that allows lots of light into the space without being overly intense in terms of glare, heat and brightness.
  - ✔ The film also creates contrast for the windows, ensuring that no one mistakes the glazing for open doors.

## Pool & Hot Tub Access

- ✔ There are a number of options for people to access the pool and the hot tub including stairs, ladders, and a provided aquatic wheelchair and accompanying overhead lift.
  - ✔ The stairs to enter the pool and hot tub have bilateral, round and graspable handrails.
- ✔ An overhead lift along with a dedicated wheeled chair is also available for individuals to access the pools and hot tubs.
  - ✔ The lift, though unique to the facility, functions well and has been approved by local inspectors.
  - ✔ The lift is comfortable to use, stable and allows for someone to comfortably enter and exit either the pool or hot tub with the assistance of a lifeguard.
  - ✔ Staff have received training in how to operate the lift.
  - ✔ The chair has locks on the wheels and a seatbelt for safety.





## Pool & Aquatic Amenities

- ✓ The edge of the pool and hot tub is well contrasted against the surrounding floor making the steps and change in height easy to see.
- ✓ Staff have created a submergible platform to create shallower areas of the pool for children and infants.
- ✓ Active and vestibular play is considered, particularly with the addition of the rope swing and the floating climbing structure.
- ✓ There is level access through large glass sliding doors to an outdoor patio area with a picnic table.

### Programming

- ✓ Staff informed the consultant team that sensory friendly swims have been hosted with features such as under water lighting and best practices related to lighting and sound management.





## Accessibility Idea: Aquatics Programming

### Sensory Kits

Sensory kits are collections of tools designed to support individuals who experience sensory sensitivities or regulation challenges, including those who are neurodivergent. They create a more inclusive and calming environment in public, educational, or recreational settings by helping individuals manage overstimulation and maintain focus or comfort.

- Providing sensory kits demonstrates a proactive commitment to accessibility and inclusion by recognizing invisible disabilities and ensuring that all community members can participate meaningfully.
- Typical items include:
  - Fidget tools (for tactile stimulation and focus)
  - Noise-cancelling headphones (to reduce auditory overload)
  - Communication boards or picture cards (for non-verbal communication support). In an aquatic environment, picture symbols can be stuck to flutter boards and used as part of swim lessons
  - Weighted lap pads or stress balls (to promote calm and self-regulation)
  - Other considerations would be small quiet activities such as colouring
- Consider developing a social story that outlines the expectations and experience to be had at Rainbow Recreation Centre, including what to expect during a sensory friendly swim.

### Goggles

Goggles can be both a positive and a negative experience for individuals. Consider providing a pair or two of loanable alternative goggles such as frogglez goggles or goggles with fabric bands that are intended to be more comfortable for sensory sensitive users. (And, if well-received, consider adding them to your retail offerings).



## Barriers & Recommendations: Aquatic Amenities

### Pool & Hot Tub Access

- Ensure that a procedure is in place for charging the lift so that it is always available for patrons to use, without fear of disappointment of arriving on site and finding out that the resource is not available.
  - Consider ensuring the lift is plugged in as part of the centre's closing procedure.
- During staff training, it's highly recommended that staff try the lift themselves, sit in the chair and experience the feeling of being lifted into and out of the pools.
- The pool area is very echoey which can feel overwhelming for some individuals, though noise-dampening panels or treatments in an aquatic environment can be difficult to implement.
  - Consider adding regular low stimulation swim times or advertising when the pool is at it's quietest.
  - There are acoustic panels that are designed for humid environments which can absorb excess sound, reducing echoes and noise. Consider reviewing whether or not these would be supportive for this environment and the community as a whole.

### Patio

- Consider providing a universally designed picnic table. Universally designed picnic tables (ie. Table with extensions or areas of bench removed) are highly recommended to ensure that people using mobility devices (or someone needing a seat with a backrest) can sit comfortably with their parties.



Reference: Marco Pasqua sits at two different universally designed picnic tables



## Administration Areas & Reception

### Staff Room / Lifeguard Office

- ✓ The staff room is large enough for its intended purposes and furnished with a small kitchenette, a table and chairs as well as access to a dedicated change room and washroom.
- ✓ There is ample lighting including natural thanks to the windows to the exterior and the glazed walls connecting the staff room with the aquatics facility.

### Staff Washrooms and Changerooms

- ✓ Within the staff room / lifeguard office there are two small single-user washrooms and changerooms. The washroom isn't designated as accessible but it would be workable for many people.
- ✓ The sink has knee clearance and a faucet is easy to operate with the soap and paper towel dispensers within reach.
- ✓ A standing shower is provided with privacy.
- ✓ Lockers at a variety of heights are provided, giving people a range of reach height options.
- ✓ The mirror is mounted at an accessible height.

### Kitchenette

- ✓ The kitchen features a range of storage options for supplies, a small amount of counter space and a counter-height coffee maker and kettle.
- ✓ The sink has a soap dispenser within reach of someone using the sink and the faucet is operable with ease with the controls are within reach of people of all heights (despite there being no knee clearance under the sink).

### Office

- ✓ A height adjustable desk and ergonomic office chair is provided in the office for the programmers.
- ✓ The office space features dual monitors.



## Barriers & Recommendations: Administration Areas

### Kitchenette

- Lower the microwave to counter height for safety and accessibility. It's currently mounted at a height that can be dangerous for many and inaccessible for people shorter in stature or seated.

### Staff Washrooms and Changerooms

- Ensure that items are kept up off the floor to maintain navigation of the space as well as prevent any tripping hazards.
- Consider frosting the bottom portion of the glazed wall to provide some privacy to the lifeguards using the space (while maintaining visibility and safety) as well as reducing the visual clutter from the aquatics area.



## Washrooms: Lobby

- ✓ The washrooms directly off of the lobby feature both male and female washrooms as well as a decommissioned single-user stall. Each providing a level of accessibility that is consistent.
- ✓ Within the accessible stall, there is ample turning radius as well as the stall is sufficiently large to provide transfer space for a front transfer or a lateral transfer from a mobility device.

### Signage and Access

- ✓ Signage, mounted on the wall, includes text information as well as the gender icons.
- ✓ Signage is also directly above the alcove entrance to the washrooms, visible from the reception desk.



### Accessible Toilet Stalls and Urinals

- ✓ The urinal is equipped with bilateral vertical grab bars which provide additional balance and contrast for users.
- ✓ The toilet paper dispensers are open canister models and are mounted within reach of someone seated on the toilet.
  - ✓ Open canister toilet paper dispensers are easier for people with limited dexterity to operate.
- ✓ The toilets being manual flush models is appreciated as automatic flushing toilets can be very loud and uncomfortable for children and people who are neurodiverse or who have sound sensitivities.
- ✓ The accessible stall features a rear mounted horizontal grab bar and an angled grab bar adjacent to the toilet.
- ✓ The door hardware is accessible and correctly placed including a locking mechanism that works for people with limited dexterity (can be operated with an open fist) and a D-handle for ease of closing the door.
- ✓ The women's washroom features a sanitary disposal unit within reach of someone seated on the toilet, correctly mounted beneath the angled grab bar.



## Washrooms: Lobby

### Sink and Mirrors

- ✓ The mirrors are mounted at a height that allows someone seated or shorter stature to view themselves in the mirror.
- ✓ Knee clearance is provided at the sink to allow a seated user to access the sink safely and comfortably.
- ✓ The sink faucet controls are easy to operate without the need for fine dexterity or a turning of the wrist.
- ✓ The soap dispenser is mounted within reach of someone using the sink.



## Barriers & Recommendations: Lobby Washrooms

The gendered washrooms are not marked as being accessible and the single-user washroom has been converted into a maintenance or storage space. The single user washroom remains on the facility maps, though it is not being used as a washroom and is closed to the public.

### Recommendations:

#### Short-Term

- The washroom signage is recommended to include a raised icon and letters providing tactile information for someone who's blind and ideally Braille.
  - Mount the signage on the wall, on the latch-side of the door at a height of **1500 mm** center line from the floor.
  - Ensure that the signage includes the symbol of accessibility.
- Blade signage for this washrooms, mounted above the entrance to the washroom alcove is recommended to provide visibility at a distance.
- The current placement of the paper towel dispenser is quite high making it difficult for someone shorter of stature or seated to fully wash and dry their hands. It's recommended to move it to the adjacent wall and mount it so that the controls are at a height of **1200 mm**.
- It's highly recommended to add an additional hook at a height of **1100 mm** from the floor in each stall.
- Consider adding a backrest to provide additional trunk support and balance especially since the toilet is not a tank-style unit.
- Determine if the single-user washroom is to be used or if it's remained closed to the public. If it's intended to be closed, then remove it from the wayfinding maps and emergency egress maps. However, it is recommended or this space to be used as a washroom as this provides an additional washroom.
  - Another consideration would be to add signage near the gendered washrooms as to the location of the additional accessible washrooms found within the universal changerooms and allow someone needing to use this facility to do so without being charged a drop-in fee (assuming they are not otherwise using facility amenities.)



## Barriers & Recommendations: Lobby Washrooms

### Recommendations:

#### Long-Term

- The lighting in the washroom is highly recommended to be updated so that it is not fluorescent lighting especially given the small space.
- Automatic door operators (ADOs) are recommended for all the washrooms. If the single-user washroom will be utilized, an ADO can simply be installed on the one washroom door, if not, it's recommended for both the gendered washrooms to have a door operator kit installed.



## Changerooms

This facility offers male changerooms, female changerooms and a universal changeroom most of the accessible features being found in the universal changerooms. Accessible washroom stalls are present in the gendered and universal change rooms.

The hallway to access the changerooms is sufficiently wide and is found directly off of the lobby.

### Signage and Access

- ✓ There is signage mounted on each changeroom door to access the change room from the lobby and large signage mounted on the wall, easily seen from the pool-side.
- ✓ Access to the change rooms from the aquatics area is to a screened entry making for ease of access to the facilities.
- ✓ The change room signage from the aquatic side is large and high contrast making it easily visible at a distance.



### Changerooms

- ✓ Within each of the changing spaces, individual stalls are provided for both showering and changing.
- ✓ Bench seating is provided to assist with changing both in the main changing area and within individual stalls.
- ✓ There are multiple heights of lockers accommodating people at a variety of heights and reach.
- ✓ The changerooms are equipped with visual and auditory fire alarms.
- ✓ The changeroom area has some areas that are large and wide open with navigable pathways to the facilities.
- ✓ There are two heights of hooks provided as well as bins at a range of heights to store personal items.

### Washroom Stalls

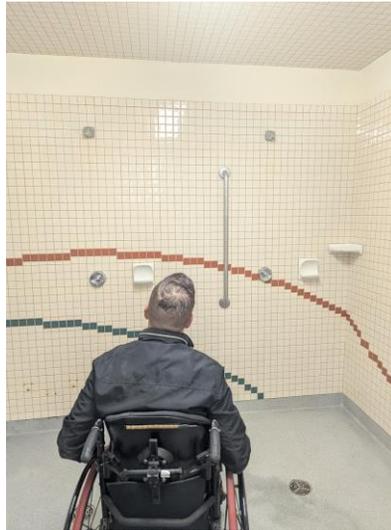
- ✓ The accessible washroom stalls are generally well equipped with sufficient area and turning radius, rear horizontal grab bars, adjacent angled grab bars and the fixtures within reach of someone seated on the toilet.
- ✓ The blue stall doors and dividers adds visual contrast to the space.



## Changerooms

### Showers

- ✓ The showering spaces include baby seats that provide parents a safe and supportive place for their baby while they change or shower.
- ✓ There are some showers with some grab bars, both vertical and horizontal.
- ✓ Some accessibility has been considering in the showers with a portable shower chair provided in one shower area and a variety of grab bar configurations in the showers.





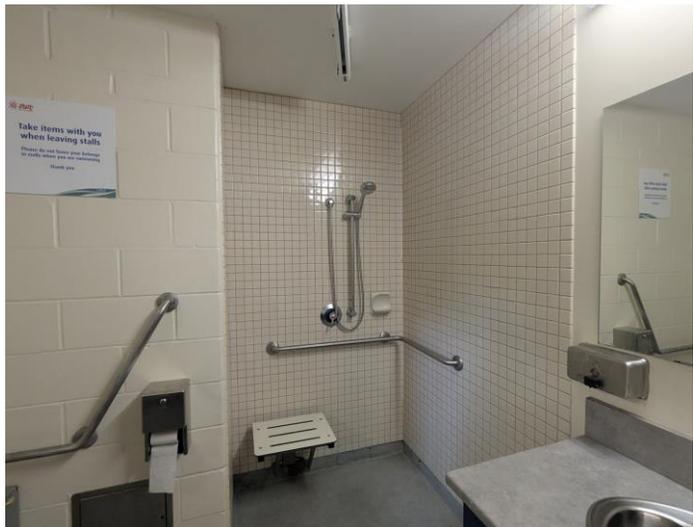
## Changerooms

### Accessibility Change Room

The Accessibility Change Room, located within the Universal Change Room space, is an all-inclusive room intended for the complete hygienic care of a participant with a disability, requiring assistance from a caregiver.

The room is large enough for its intended purpose and provides ample turning radius and transfer space that would accommodate most people's needs.

- ✔ The room is locked with signage directing users to retrieve the key from reception.
  - ✔ The space is locked to ensure that the room is maintained available for those who require it.
- ✔ The space features a range of accessible hygiene furnishings including:
  - ✔ A roll-in shower with a shower head on a shower pole, a fold-down bench and a grab bar.
  - ✔ A ceiling lift that can take someone from the shower area to the adult change bench.
  - ✔ A fold-down adult change bench is provided in the space with a weight capacity that is safe and comfortable for most adults to use.
  - ✔ The toilet includes an angled grab bar adjacent to the toilet.
  - ✔ The sink has knee clearance and the soap and paper towel dispenser within reach of someone using the sink.





## Barriers & Recommendations: Changerooms

### Signage and Access

- When upgrading the package, it's highly recommended to add icons/symbols to the washroom and change room signage increasing its accessibility for people with literacy disabilities as well as making the sign more obvious at a distance.
- Additional signage from the lobby is recommended to direct people towards the changerooms.
- The signage for the change rooms should be mounted on the wall, latch-side at a height of 1500 mm from the floor and include tactile letters and icons to be accessible for people who are blind.

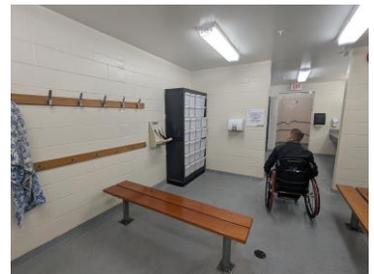
### Change Rooms

- Consider adding some hooks at a height of **1,100 mm** from the floor. This would allow people seated or shorter of stature to reach a hook to place their items off the floor.
- The baby change table is mounted too high, even for someone standing so it is recommended to be lowered to approximately counter height of between **760 and 865 mm**.
- The benches are placed directly in front of the lowered lockers making it very difficult to access the bottom row of lockers. People either need to lean over them sit on them and work around their own bodies. Consider ways of opening up the space and creating greater access to the lockers while maintaining a path of travel.
  - Could the benches be relocated to beneath the hooks? Or could they be doubled up in the areas that are wider?



### Accessible Toilet Stalls

- Women's changeroom accessible stall washroom door currently swings inward. It's recommended to be re-hung to swing outwards to provide the full turning radius intended within the washroom stall.





## Barriers & Recommendations: Changerooms

### Accessible Toilet Stalls

- Women's changerroom accessible stall washroom door currently swings inward. It's recommended to be re-hung to swing outwards to provide the full turning radius intended within the washroom stall.
- Where locking mechanisms are still the old short twisting style, it's recommended to replace these with the models that have an extension as these are more accessible for people with limited dexterity.



### Showers

- Consider replacing the grab bars in the showers with ones that are of higher contrast so they are more visible to someone needing them. Right now, they fade into the wall and individuals with low vision (including those with cataracts) may not see the grab bars completely to use them.
- Adding grab bars to the showers is highly recommended to assist with balance.
- Consider adding accessible elements to the showers including a shower bench to give people more options and accommodations for showering.
- If completing a significant renovation, a roll-in shower, complete with grab bars and a fold-down shower bench in each of the gendered and the universal washroom change rooms spaces would be highly recommended as these spaces can be used by people of all abilities including seniors or people with balance disabilities.
- When renovating the showers, consider replacing the controls with lever-style controls as the current ones may be difficult for people with limited strength or dexterity to operate.





## Barriers & Recommendations: Changerooms

### Accessibility Change Room

The accessibility change room is configured in such a way that it is designed for someone needing a caregiver's support for hygiene purposes and doesn't truly allow for someone with a disability to shower and change them selves independently.

For example, the layout of the shower anticipates that someone will shower in the aquatics wheelchair rather than transfer onto the shower bench since the bench is not would not be under the stream of the shower. The shower bench is quite short so it doesn't provide adequate space for someone to comfortably sit and shower independently.

### Short-Term

- Clarify and manage staff procedure for setting up and aligning the adult change table to prevent misuse or damage. Consider keeping it in the open position and removing the hook on the wall.
  - We understand that for safety of children and preventing storage on the table the preference may be to leave the table in it's closed position, so it would be advised then to have a sign mounted and ensure that staff are familiar with how to set up the table safely.
  - Add a bench or cubbies beneath the change table is recommended to prevent it from being used for storage or clutter.
- Consider installing a mirror or lowering the current one to a height of **1000 mm** from the floor to ensure that people of all heights can see themselves reflected in the mirror.
- It's recommended to update the faucet controls to ones that don't require force to operate as the current one may be difficult for children and for people with limited strength to activate.
- Consider adding some colour to the walls as the space feels very enclosed and some colour would add contrast aiding with visual acuity and balance as well as making the space feel less clinical.

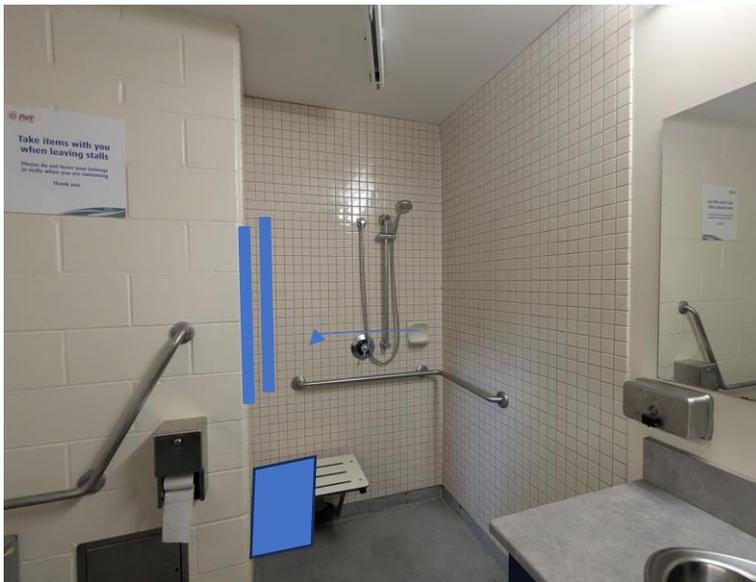


## Barriers & Recommendations: Changerooms

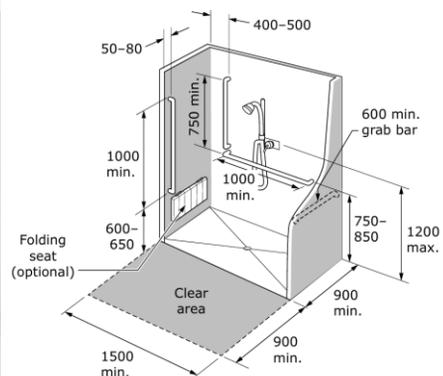
### Accessibility Change Room

#### Mid-Term

- Consider a small reorganization of the shower's amenities including:
  - If the controls would still be within reach of someone seated on the bench, consider replacing the current shower bench with one that is longer and mounting it on the adjacent wall. This would allow more space on the bench itself as well as offer lateral transfer to the bench while someone's mobility device remains out of the stream of water.
  - Add vertical grab bars to the walls: one placed next to the shower pole and the other mounted on the outside edge of the wall, where the bench is relocated to.
  - Ensure that the bottom edge of the shower pole is within reach of someone seated on the shower bench with bottom edge at most **1200 mm** from the floor and within **500 mm** from the edge of the bench.
  - Consider moving the soap dispenser to within reach of someone seated on the bench.



**Figure 51**  
**Roll-in shower stall**  
(See Clauses [6.5.5.2](#) and [6.5.5.3](#).)





## Barriers & Recommendations: Changerooms

### Accessibility Change Room

#### Long-Term

- Consider installing an automatic door operator on both the Accessibility Change Room door and the door to enter the universal change rooms to ensure a complete path of travel that is independently accessible.
- An extension to the ceiling mounted track is advised so that someone can be safely lifted and transferred from their wheelchair or from the change table to the toilet.
- When funds allow, an upgraded adult change bench is highly recommended, ideally one that is height adjustable and designed to support at least 250 kg is recommended.

#### Best Practices:

- An adult change table should be at least **760 mm wide by 1830 mm** long with a surface height that can be adjusted from between **450/500mm and 850/900 mm**.



## Wayfinding

- ✔ Rooms are marked with signage (though mounted on the door) includes the name of the room and a logical numbering system.
- ✔ Signage throughout the recreation is limited but does include room signage for key amenities such as the changerooms, washrooms and administration office.
- ✔ Washroom signage includes icons and the universal changeroom door includes the symbol of accessibility.
- ✔ There is signage directly above the reception desk directing visitors immediately to the desk.



## Recommendations: Wayfinding

- Consider developing a consistent wayfinding strategy that encompasses an Island-wide consistent use of icons, tactile elements and braille.
- Consider installing either decals or blade signage for key amenities areas such those located down corridors, including the changerooms.
- Where room signage is found mounted on the door, it makes it inaccessible when the door is opened as well as not available for those with low vision. It is recommended to mount signage on the wall, latch-side, at a height of **1,500 mm** centerline. The room signage would also benefit from ideally both braille and tactile components, but at minimum tactile icons and language.
- Ensure that the icons accurately reflect the features found within the washroom stall. Where washrooms are not accessible either due to turning radius or lack of grab bars, note these as either limited mobility or single user stalls.

## Understanding Wayfinding

Imagine navigating a complex building with ease, feeling confident and in control rather than overwhelmed. This is the result of a thoughtfully designed wayfinding system, which incorporates braille, tactile elements, high-contrast signage, and intuitive icons strategically placed throughout the space.

For individuals who are blind or have low vision, tactile signage with raised characters and braille is essential. It enables them to independently access critical information, including room numbers, directions, and emergency exits, enhancing their autonomy and safety within the environment.

High-contrast signage, with light text on a dark background or vice versa, makes it easier for people with visual disabilities to read and comprehend information quickly.

Intuitive icons and pictograms are another powerful tool for accessibility. They transcend language barriers and provide a universal understanding of key features and directions. For individuals with cognitive disabilities or anxiety, these visual cues can help break down complex information into manageable chunks, reducing stress and confusion.

By providing clear, unobstructed paths and directional signage at appropriate heights, we ensure that everyone can navigate the space with ease. When the signage is visible at a distance, it allows people to make decisions on their path of travel and ensure they are using the most efficient and effective route of travel to their intended destination.



### Did you know?

Sans serif fonts are considered the most accessible since they streamline the reading process by eliminating visual distractions, making them the go-to choice for maximum readability and accessibility.



## Emergency Systems

- ✓ The entire facility is equipped with auditory and visual fire alarms including in the change rooms.
- ✓ Emergency maps are clear, well-placed, non-reflective, and easy to read. They are mounted at accessible heights and are generally low-glare.
  - ✓ They include maps which are very clear marking the pool locations and the assembly areas.
- ✓ Exits are well marked with overhead signage.
- ✓ There are many accessible emergency exits that have a level and flush threshold and connects directly to the exterior of the building.
- ✓ Safety equipment, including fire extinguishers and fire pull stations are well-marked and generally located in accessible locations and mounted at accessible heights.



## Barriers & Recommendations: Emergency Systems

### Long-Term

- If completing more significant renovations, it is highly recommended to provide visual fire alarms the accessible change room area as someone may be using this space alone.
  - Ensure that the perspectives of people with disabilities is included in our emergency management planning including having staff open locked doors to ensure that no one is inside during an evacuation rather than just knocking on the door.
- When completing a more significant renovation, consider replacing the current red exit signs with green 'running person' models. Using the green running person exit signage throughout the buildings is recommended as well as including the signage that features the accessibility icon to note accessible egress routes.
  - The running person pictogram is an intuitive, universally recognized symbol that clearly conveys the message to exit quickly in an emergency. It relies less on language comprehension compared to text-only "Exit" signs and therefore benefits people with cognitive disabilities, low literacy, or those who speak different languages.



## Preschool

### Access

- ✓ Access to the centre is provided via a ramp or a set of stairs leading to the entrance.
  - ✓ Both the ramp and stairs are equipped with bilateral graspable handrails.
  - ✓ There is a non-slip surface on stair treads.
  - ✓ There is some contrast present on stair nosings (though could use repainting).
  - ✓ The ramp grade is comfortable and functional, meeting best practices.
  - ✓ The top landing of the stairs features cane detectable attention tactile walking indicator strips in high vis yellow.
- ✓ Locations and mounted at accessible heights.

### Preschool Space

- ✓ The preschool space itself is bright, well-equipped, and comfortable.
- ✓ The space is easy to navigate with ample space between activity stations.
- ✓ Items are mounted heights that are accessible for children, without the need to climb, reach or be lifted.
- ✓ There are quiet spaces with carpets for comfort and sound management.
- ✓ There is good contrast between the floors and the wall as well as the walls and the trim.
- ✓ Temperature management is provided with an AC unit and a heat pump.
- ✓ Shade is provided in the play area.
- ✓ A variety of sensory play is provided both indoors and outdoors including direct access to the natural environment.

### Washroom

- ✓ The washroom includes a standard-sized toilet with grab bars (rear horizontal and adjacent 90° angled), a step stool, and potties available for children.
- ✓ The urinal is lowered and features bilateral grab bars.
- ✓ The toilet paper dispenser is within reach of someone seated on the toilet (adults).
- ✓ Fixtures appear to meet good general standards of accessibility for adults.
- ✓ Knee clearance is provided at the sink along with an accessible height mirror, soap and paper towel dispenser in reach of someone using the sink and a step stool for children.



## Barriers & Recommendations: Emergency Systems

### Access

- It's recommended to update the paint on the nosing of the stairs to increase the contrast and visibility on the descent.

### Preschool Space

- If ever completing a renovation of the space, a lowered sink would be recommended for children to be able to wash their hands with independence.
- It is highly recommended to exchange the fluorescent lighting for LED lighting to reduce the visual stimulation caused by the flicker of the lights.

### Washroom

- If ever completing a more significant renovation or expansion of the childcare space, consider adding a child-height toilet with corresponding grab bars to support self-transfer and independence.



## Web & Recreation Guide Content

When communicating the accessibility features of a physical location or space, let potential visitors know of what enhancements are available, as opposed to assuming what might be “accessible” for them. This will give them an opportunity to decide for themselves if the accessibility of the site meets their own particular needs. Rather than telling the public that something is accessible, tell them what features are available and where to request more information or additional accommodations.

Highlighting accessible features on websites and in newsletters or recreation guides increases the public’s awareness and the likelihood of usage of the recreation centre facility.

Include information about:

- ✓ The availability of accessible washrooms and showers and how to access them;
- ✓ The location of the accessible parking stalls;
- ✓ Any special features like lifts, aquatic wheelchairs, specialized equipment;
- ✓ The availability of access options (stairs, ramps, lifts, ladders) into pools;
- ✓ The location of accessible viewing areas;
- ✓ The availability of an adult change table;
- ✓ Upcoming accessible and inclusive programming;
- ✓ Your sensory kits;
- ✓ When the centre might be busiest or quietest;
- ✓ Information on where to request additional information related to the accessibility of the site; and
- ✓ Any barriers to accessing the site even if temporary. (Ie the elevator is out of service, the automatic door operator isn’t functioning, a washroom is being renovated.)

Don’t be afraid to tell the public about newly updated or upgraded accessibility features. Did you install a new door operator? Tell people! Did you receive a new lift? Share it! People like to know that accessibility is being considered and why it matters.

# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

## Sensory Kits

- Sensory kits are collections of tools designed to support individuals who experience sensory sensitivities or regulation challenges, including those who are neurodivergent. They create a more inclusive and calming environment in public, educational, or recreational settings by helping individuals manage overstimulation and maintain focus or comfort.
- Providing sensory kits demonstrates a proactive commitment to accessibility and inclusion by recognizing invisible disabilities and ensuring that all community members can participate meaningfully.
- Typical items include:
  - Fidget tools (for tactile stimulation and focus)
  - Noise-cancelling headphones (to reduce auditory overload)
  - Communication boards or picture cards (for non-verbal communication support)
  - Weighted lap pads or stress balls (to promote calm and self-regulation)
  - Sunglasses or visors (to help manage light sensitivity)
  - Other considerations would be small quiet activities such as colouring
- Consider developing a social story that can be shared with teachers or available on the website as a downloadable resource. These stories allow people of all ages to understand what to expect from an environmental perspective and also what the expectations are for social interactions and behavior. Social stories are usually written in the first person, using positive, reassuring language. They often include pictures and simple language.



# PRIORITIZATION

When considering making changes to increase accessibility, thinking about the entire 'path of accessibility.' That is, is the complete process of accessing and using a space accessible? Where possible, we advocate for creating complete accessible spaces rather than adding piecemeal accessibility supports. For example, we advocate for a singular accessible washroom rather than a number of washrooms with a variety of accessibility features.

Our recommended priorities based on both access and impact include:

## Highest Priority

- One of the highest priority accessibility recommendations would be to replace the fluorescent lighting with LED as this was brought up a number of times as a point of concern and discomfort from staff.
- Improve wayfinding and signage consistence, including adding tactile room signage mounted on the wall for primary spaces including washrooms, changerooms, community rooms and other public-facing spaces.

## Short Term

- Provide more information on the recreation centre's website on the accessibility features available at Rainbow Recreation Centre including information about the lift, sensory friendly swims and reduced rate for the leisure access program.
- Add blade signage to the washrooms and change rooms to increase visibility.
- Make adjustments in the change room washrooms including the door swing on the accessible washroom door and the locking mechanism.
- Add signage to the adult change table and instructions for how to use it and create a procedure for staff to ensure the lift is charged.
- Create a loanable sensory kit.

## Long Term

- Install an automatic door operator on both the Accessibility Change Room door and the door to enter the universal change room door.
- Upgrade all of the lighting to LED lighting.

# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

## Parking & Approach

### Entrance & Wayfinding

- Install a decal on the automatic entrance door indicating which door opens when the operator button is pressed.
- Ensure bicycle parking remains clear of the travel path and continue providing power access for mobility devices.
- Maintain clear and direct access routes from the parking lot to the entrance with consistent, firm, non-slip surfaces.

### Accessible Parking Stalls

- Pave the parking lot and add pavement decals with the dynamic accessibility symbol on a blue background for contrast and visibility.
- Maintain vertical pole signage for accessible stalls to ensure visibility at a distance.
- Highlight the availability of the outdoor power outlet for charging mobility devices or e-bikes.

## Lobby & Reception

- Relocate the printer from the lowered counter to maintain clear workspace and accessibility for seated users.
- Keep the lowered counter free of clutter and available for visitor service.
- Review ergonomic setup at the reception area to ensure comfort and accessibility for staff.

### Long Term

- Include knee clearance at the lowered counter during future reconfigurations to accommodate mobility-device users.

## Circulation

### Lighting and Contrast

- Replace all fluorescent lighting with high-quality LED fixtures operating at or above 1000 Hz.
- Ensure LED fixtures are properly shielded or angled to reduce glare on signage, screens, and glazing.
- Maintain consistent contrast between floors, walls, and trim throughout the facility.

## Pool & Aquatic Amenities

### Pool & Hot Tub Access

- Implement a procedure to charge the pool lift daily to ensure continuous operation.
- Include hands-on lift training for staff to promote safe and confident use.

### Programming

- Schedule low-stimulation or sensory-friendly swim times and communicate quiet periods clearly.
- Evaluate options for sound-absorbing materials suitable for aquatic environments to reduce echo.

### Patio

- Provide a universally designed picnic table that accommodates wheelchair users and individuals needing back support.

## Administration Areas and Reception

### Kitchenette

- Lower the microwave to counter height for safe and accessible use.

### Staff Washrooms and Changerooms

- Keep floors and pathways clear to prevent tripping hazards and maintain accessibility.
- Frost the lower section of glazed walls to increase privacy and reduce visual distraction.

## Washrooms: Lobby

### General

- Confirm the status of the single-user washroom. If closed, remove it from facility maps; if reopened, ensure it is clearly signed and available for use.
- Add signage near gendered washrooms indicating the location of accessible washrooms within the universal changerrooms.

### Signage and Access

- Add blade signage above the washroom alcove for visibility at a distance.
- Install tactile and Braille signage on the wall, latch-side of each door, mounted at 1500 mm centreline height.

## Accessible Toilet Stalls and Urinals

- Add backrests to toilets to improve stability and comfort.
- Mount additional hooks in each stall at 1100 mm height for reachability.
- Lower paper towel dispensers so controls are no higher than 1200 mm from the floor.

## Sink and Mirrors

- Ensure mirrors are mounted at a height suitable for both standing and seated users.
- Maintain knee clearance at sinks for seated users and ensure faucets operate without fine dexterity.

## Long Term

- Replace all fluorescent lighting with LED fixtures to reduce flicker and glare.
- Install automatic door operators on washroom doors to improve independent access.

## Change Rooms

### General

- Add additional hooks at 1100 mm height for seated or shorter users.
- Lower baby change tables to 760–865 mm height.
- Reposition benches to improve access to lower lockers while maintaining clear travel paths.

### Signage and Access

- Add icons and symbols to washroom and changeroom signage to improve recognition.
- Include tactile letters and icons mounted on the wall, latch-side at 1500 mm height.

## Accessible Toilet Stalls

- Rehang the women's changeroom accessible stall door to swing outward for improved turning radius.
- Replace short-turn locking mechanisms with lever-style locks to support limited dexterity.

## Showers

- Replace existing grab bars with higher-contrast models for improved visibility.
- Add additional grab bars and fold-down shower benches in shower areas.
- Incorporate roll-in showers with lever-style controls in future renovations.

## Accessibility Change Room

- Clarify staff procedures for setting up and securing the adult change table.
- Add cubbies or bench space beneath the change table to prevent clutter.
- Install or lower a mirror to 1000 mm height for full visibility.
- Replace faucet controls with low-force models to increase ease of use.
- Add colour contrast to improve visibility and create a more welcoming environment.
- Extend the ceiling-mounted lift track to provide full transfer between toilet, bench, and shower.
- Replace the adult change table with a height-adjustable model rated to support at least 250 kg.

### Mid-Term

- Reorganize the shower layout to support independent use by repositioning the bench and adding vertical grab bars near the shower pole.
- Relocate the soap dispenser within reach of the shower bench.

### Long Term

- Install automatic door operators on both the Accessibility Change Room and Universal Changeroom doors.
- Extend the ceiling-mounted lift track to provide full transfer between toilet, bench, and shower.
- Replace the adult change table with a height-adjustable model rated to support at least 250 kg.

## Wayfinding

- Develop a consistent wayfinding system with standardized icons, tactile elements, and Braille.
- Install blade or wall-mounted signage for changerooms, washrooms, and other key spaces.
- Move door-mounted signage to wall-mounted placement on the latch-side at 1500 mm height.
- Include tactile icons and Braille on all room signage, ensuring icons accurately reflect available features.
- Identify washrooms with limited accessibility and mark them clearly.

## Emergency Systems

### Long Term

- Install visual fire alarms in the accessible changeroom.
- Integrate accessibility considerations into emergency procedures, ensuring all rooms are checked during evacuations.
- Replace red "EXIT" signs with green running-person signage featuring the accessibility symbol to indicate accessible egress routes.

## Preschool

### Access

- Repaint stair nosings to increase contrast and visibility.

### Washroom

- Add a child-height toilet with grab bars to promote independence during future renovations.

### Preschool Space

- Install a lowered sink for children's independent handwashing.
- Replace fluorescent lighting with LED fixtures to reduce sensory discomfort.

## Web and Recreation Guide Content

- Include details on accessibility features such as accessible washrooms, parking, lifts, and adaptive equipment.
- Highlight accessible programming, including sensory-friendly swims and quiet hours.
- Provide clear contact information for accessibility inquiries and updates on temporary barriers.
- Offer downloadable social stories and sensory guides to support inclusive participation.

# WHY IS CONTRAST SO IMPORTANT?

## Contrast to support people with Low Vision

- Contrast makes things easier to identify and distinguish. High contrast between an object and its background helps those with low vision better perceive shapes, edges, and boundaries.
- It improves legibility and readability. When there is strong contrast between text and its background, it is easier for people who have low vision to read and interpret letters, words, and symbols.
- Contrast provides visual orientation. Things like doorways, handrails, and signage stand out better when there is significant contrast with surroundings. This aids navigation and independence.
- Reduced contrast contributes to eye strain and fatigue. Insufficient contrast makes visual tasks more difficult and tiring for those with low vision.

## Contrast for Balance

- Contrast highlights edges and boundaries. When moving from seated to upright, high contrast along the edges of steps, floors, and thresholds makes these changes in level clearly visible. This prepares the body for adjustments.
- It defines spatial orientation. Contrast provides visual cues that help the brain orient itself in space, allowing for better balance control such as knowing where a wall, handrail or counter is helps stabilize our vision.
- Distinct edges guide movement. Clear definition where surfaces change, facilitated by contrast, guides body motions like getting up from a chair or exiting a vehicle.
- It draws attention to tripping hazards. Significant contrast makes irregularities in floors, pavements, ramps readily apparent so they can be navigated safely.
- Low contrast obscures surroundings. With inadequate contrast, visual environment blends together, depriving brain of key reference points needed to maintain equilibrium.

# WHY DO ICONS MATTER?



## Iconography

Icons are important for accessibility because they provide visual cues that can be quickly and easily understood by a wide range of users, regardless of their language skills, cognitive abilities, or sensory impairments.

**Universal understanding:** Well-designed icons transcend language barriers and can be interpreted by people from diverse backgrounds including folks who don't speak English as a first language.

**Cognitive accessibility:** Icons can help people with cognitive disabilities or learning difficulties to better understand and navigate their environment. Simple, clear icons reduce the cognitive load required to process information.

**Wayfinding assistance:** Consistent use of standardized icons throughout a building or site can aid in wayfinding, especially for individuals with intellectual disabilities or those who are unfamiliar with the space.

**Benefit for people with low vision:** When designed with high contrast and sufficient size, icons can be more easily perceived by people with low vision compared to text alone.

**Supports non-readers:** Icons can convey important information to individuals who have difficulty reading, whether due to a visual impairment, learning disability, or language barrier.

## Key Considerations

- Use internationally recognized symbols, like the International Symbol of Access.
- Ensure adequate size and contrast for visibility.
- Place icons on signage that is mounted at an accessible height and providing clear floor space for approach.
- Utilize tactile icons with braille labels on signage to support users who are blind or have low vision.
- Maintain consistency in the design and use of icons throughout a site.
- Incorporate well-designed, universally understood icons to create environments that are more intuitive, easier to navigate, and accessible to a broader range of people.

## Lighting for Comfort, Safety, and Well-Being

Appropriate lighting design plays a crucial role in creating safe, comfortable, and inclusive environments. The type of light, its colour temperature, and overall quality can significantly affect visual comfort, mood, and overall well-being. The following guidance provides best practices for selecting LED lighting that supports accessibility and user comfort across different settings.

### Warm White Lighting for Comfort and Relaxation:

Recommended colour Temperature: 2700K–3000K

Warm white LED lights within this range produce a soft, yellowish glow similar to natural sunset light. This tone promotes relaxation, reduces visual fatigue, and minimizes glare sensitivity, making it ideal for residential areas, lounges, bedrooms, and dining spaces.

#### Key Benefits:

- Supports a calm and welcoming atmosphere
- Reduces eye strain and glare-related discomfort
- Mimics natural evening light, helping regulate circadian rhythm

### Cool White Lighting for Productivity and Focus:

Recommended colour Temperature: 5000K–6500K

Cool or “daylight” white LEDs provide a bright, crisp illumination that enhances alertness and focus. These higher colour temperatures are well-suited to task-oriented spaces such as home offices, workshops, or study areas.

#### Key Benefits:

- Improves concentration and visual acuity for detailed work
- Simulates daylight conditions for improved energy and attentiveness

#### Considerations:

- Cooler lighting may feel harsh in relaxation zones and can disrupt sleep when used during evening hours. Where possible, limit use to daytime or work-specific settings.

## Technical Considerations for Comfort and Safety

**Flicker Control:** Select LEDs with a low flicker percentage and low flicker index. High flicker levels can contribute to headaches, fatigue, and discomfort, particularly for individuals with light sensitivity or neurological conditions.

**colour Rendering Index (CRI):** A high CRI (90 or above) ensures accurate colour perception, contributing to safer navigation, improved aesthetics, and a more comfortable visual experience.

**Blue Light Management:** Blue light exposure, especially in the evening, can affect sleep quality and visual comfort. To mitigate these effects:

- Choose warm white or “tunable” LEDs that can adjust colour temperature throughout the day.
- Consider bulbs with built-in blue light filters to reduce eye strain and support healthy sleep cycles.

## Why Avoid Fluorescent Lighting

Traditional fluorescent lighting, while once standard, presents several health and comfort concerns that make it less suitable for inclusive environments:

**Flicker and Visual Fatigue:** Fluorescent lights operate on alternating current, producing subtle but continuous flicker that can trigger headaches, eye strain, and nausea, especially for individuals sensitive to light.

**Auditory Distraction:** The low-level buzzing sound common in fluorescent fixtures can cause discomfort or distraction, particularly for individuals with auditory or sensory sensitivities such as autism or ADHD.

**colour Quality:** Fluorescent bulbs typically have a lower colour Rendering Index (CRI), which can distort colour perception and reduce visual clarity.

**Environmental and Safety Concerns:** Fluorescent tubes contain mercury, requiring special disposal and posing a hazard if broken.

As such, fluorescent lighting is not recommended for environments prioritizing accessibility, inclusion, and overall occupant well-being.

## How LED Lighting Supports Neurodiverse Users

LED technology provides several advantages that make it especially supportive for neurodiverse individuals and others with sensory sensitivities:

- **Stable and Consistent Light Output:** High-quality LEDs with low flicker and even brightness help prevent sensory overload and visual discomfort.
- **Adjustable colour Temperature:** “Tunable” LEDs allow users to modify brightness and tone throughout the day, empowering people to create lighting conditions that match their sensory comfort levels.
- **Quiet Operation:** Unlike fluorescents, LEDs operate silently, eliminating ambient noise that can be distracting or overstimulating.
- **Customization and Control:** Integration with dimmers or smart systems enables personalized lighting zones, reducing sensory stress and supporting focus or calm as needed.
- **Improved colour Accuracy:** A high CRI ensures natural colour rendering, reducing confusion and enhancing comfort for users who are sensitive to distorted lighting environments.

By prioritizing LED solutions that minimize flicker, reduce blue light, and allow user control, spaces become more inclusive for people with sensory sensitivities, autism spectrum conditions, and other neurodiverse experiences.

THANK YOU

## for choosing Meaningful Access Consulting

We are pleased to work with you and to present this review of the Salt Spring Island Rainbow Recreation Centre which outlines accessibility recommendations from mobility, hearing, learning, sensory, cognitive and sight perspectives. We are so encouraged that Salt Spring Island is truly activating on their intention to create meaningful and accessible experiences for the community members of all ages, abilities and disabilities.

We continue to applaud the District and your efforts in working towards universal design and accessibility for all.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out! We are here to help.

Thank you again,



**Marco & Karin Pasqua**

Universal Design Accessibility Consultants

[www.meaningfulaccess.com](http://www.meaningfulaccess.com)

