

Good morning, my name is Philip Bobawsky and I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you this morning. I am here to tell you why the Access Design Standards are important to creating a more inclusive Calgary, how it effects me, and my stake in the game.

Most of us are totally unaware that people with disabilities still face a huge number of accessibility issues on a daily basis, both physical barriers and attitudinal. Paramount leaps in assistive products and technology has given the 3.8 million Canadian adults living with a disability new found independence, mobility, and the opportunity to participate more fully. What I suggest is simple, lets design, build and renovate City facilities and structures that are accessible and inclusive for all Calgarians to enjoy equally.

Currently the sole benchmark for accessibility is the Alberta building code which is severely antiquated and does very little for people with sensory based disabilities. So the purpose of the Accessible Design Standards is to fill the gaps and raise the bar for accessibility when it comes to City facilities and structures. By 2036 the reality is that 1 in 5 Canadians will be living with a disability, so we need to think and practice accessibility in all infrastructure and renovation projects we are currently planning.

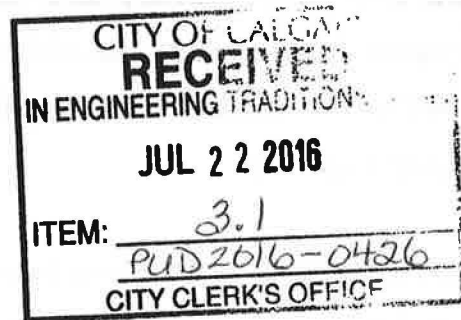
If the ADS were in place today in the city hall complex Braille would be on all signage, there would be a relieving area for my

dog, I could dispose of all sharps safely and I could be dropped off safely in front of the building.

Suddenly 10 years ago my perspective on accessibility took a dramatic change, I was one of them, a person with a disability, I could barely walk 50 meters and not see clearly where I was walking. Armed with this new perspective I have become an advocate and champion for accessibility and inclusion and want Calgary to become a leader in this field.

Respectfully Submitted

Philip Bobawsky



**ACCESS DESIGN STANDARDS 2016, PUD2016-0426**

Have you ever experienced a situation in which you felt uncomfortable, out of place or like your presence was unwanted? The feeling you are recalling right now will give you a small insight into what it's like to live in a world that, through the way in which it is physically constructed, seems to undermine your existence and value as a person. From my perspective, designs come to fruition through actions and those actions are influenced by thoughts about the people who inhabit the City of Calgary.

What does it mean for Calgary to be inclusive? To me, it means that everyone is able to participate in and contribute to society, however they wish to do so, unencumbered by any kind of barriers or judgments of their worth. It means that all people's rights are not only acknowledged but respected. The renaming of the standards from 'Disabled Access Design Guidelines' in 1988 to 'Access Design Standards' currently, reflects the realization that citizens with disabilities are not and should not, be regarded or treated as separate from any other citizens. Moreover, the Access Design Standards benefit everyone, whether this occurs overtly or not.

As a person with a mobility-related disability, researching new places before I visit them is nothing unusual. I find out about wheelchair accessible entrances, parking, elevator locations and other things that may not necessarily come to mind for everyone. While I have grown accustomed to forward planning, there is a part of me that craves opportunities to be spontaneous, without the uncertainty of whether or not a place will be accessible to me. I want to be able to move through spaces freely and form connections with other people, without feeling drained by the physicality of navigating each day.

The proposed updates to the Access Design Standards represent progress towards making genuine inclusion a reality. With their increased specificity, the new standards present enhancing the city's accessibility for all as something that is both necessary and morally right. In being more focused, the standards will hopefully increasingly become a natural part of the way in which society develops, rather than being perceived as something additional or an inconvenience. When the Access Design Standards become norms, citizens who have traditionally been marginalized or excluded from society change from being merely accommodated in society, to shaping the spaces and opportunities to which they have historically been denied access. In this way, the new Access Design Standards and resulting updates to public spaces, send a powerful message to people from every background and circumstance... not only does Calgary welcome you but even more here.

Anuya Pai, 07-22-2016

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