

Accessibility Plan – Western Canada Express Inc.

Date Published: May 28, 2024

General

Western Canada Express Inc. is a provider of intermodal transportation services in Canada.

As a federally regulated employer, it is our responsibility to provide all employees an inclusive, respectful, and safe workplace, adapted to meet their diverse needs. As such, Western Canada Express Inc. is committed to ensuring accessibility for all individuals by 2040. It is our goal to raise our knowledge and awareness of challenges faced by people with disabilities and to promote an inclusive work environment. We will do this by identifying and taking steps to eliminate existing barriers, and prevent the creation of additional barriers moving forward.

This Accessibility Plan has been authored with the intention of ensuring compliance with the *Accessible Canada Act*. The document outlines Western Canada Express Inc.'s roadmap over the next three (3) years. It aims to define current objectives and provide strategies and solutions to address challenges relating to accessibility in the seven (7) key areas outlined below.

Designated Representative and Alternate Formats

For inquiries relating to this plan or to provide additional feedback, please contact the following representative via any of the avenues listed below:

Contact Name: Corporate HR Manager

By Mail or In-Person: Suite 2900, 201 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 3K6

By E-Mail: HR@rewc.com

By Phone: +1 (204) 958-5300

As a federally regulated, private-sector organization with an average of between ten (10) and ninety-nine (99) employees, Western Canada Express Inc. is required to provide this document in print, large print, and electronic formats within fifteen (15) days of a request.

Western Canada Express Inc. is also required to provide braille or audio versions of the plan within forty-five (45) days of a request.

If you require an alternate format of this plan, please contact the designated representative listed in this section. Please make sure to include what format that you need and the manner in which you would like it received.

Definitions

Accessibility: Refers to the needs of persons with disabilities being intentionally and thoughtfully considered when products, services, and facilities are built or modified so they can be used and enjoyed by persons of all abilities.

Barrier: Anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of persons with an impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment or a functional limitation. This includes anything physical, architectural, technological or attitudinal, anything that is based on information or communications or anything that is the result of a policy or a practice.

Disability: Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society.

Areas Described Under Section 5 of the *Accessible Canada Act*

The objectives and commitments described in this section have been designed in recognition of the principles outlined in the *Accessible Canada Act*.

Employment

Accessible 'employment' ensures that candidates and employees with disabilities and those that experience barriers are supported throughout the entire employment lifecycle.

Objectives:

- Identifying barriers to recruitment and retention of persons with disabilities,
- Reducing barriers in current employment policies and procedures, and
- Strengthening current accommodation policies and procedures.

2024-2026 Commitments:

1. Review current hiring policies and procedures.
2. Educate managers on accessibility and how they can ensure a barrier-free hiring, selection, and accommodation process.
3. Collaborate with employees on strategies to enhance the accommodation policy and processes to ensure all needs are met.

Built Environment

An accessible 'built environment' ensures that workspaces and the work environment can be reached, entered, and/or used by all individuals.

Objectives:

- Providing barrier-free workspaces in all locations,
- Ensuring the proper accessibility features are available to accommodate all disabilities, and

- Addressing reported barriers within the built environment.

2024-2026 Commitments:

1. Review building plans and assess current workplaces to identify potential physical barriers to accessibility.
2. Ensure proper signage that advises and directs people to accessibility features.
3. Create a specific reporting mechanism for barriers within the built environment.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Accessible 'information and communication technologies (ICT)' are various technological tools used to send, store, create, share, or exchange information.

Objectives:

- Making accessibility a priority in the implementation of software, hardware, and improvements to IT infrastructure, and
- Ensuring employees have the proper tools and resources to perform their jobs successfully.

2024-2026 Commitments:

1. Inventory current IT systems to measure accessibility features.
2. Identify training needs relating to accessibility features in current IT systems, software, and hardware.
3. Engage IT to increase their knowledge of adaptive technology and identify potential improvements to increase accessibility features in current IT systems, software, and hardware.

Communication (Non-ICT)

Accessible 'communication (non-ICT)' ensures that Western Canada Express Inc. provides barrier free access for the public, clients, and employees to all communications that the company produces.

Objectives:

- Ensuring communication from and within the company can be accessed by all employees, vendors, clients, and the public (where applicable), and
- Increasing internal awareness of accessibility.

2024-2026 Commitments:

1. Identify service providers to assist in the creation of alternate formats, where appropriate and when needed.
2. Prepare standard resources and commonly issued company communication in alternate formats, when requested.
3. Develop a communication strategy and identify training needs relating to accessibility in the workplace.

Procurement of Goods, Services, and Facilities

Accessible 'procurement of goods, services, and facilities' ensures that accessibility is considered throughout the buying process.

Objectives:

- Ensuring procurement procedures and practices are modernized and include awareness around accessibility, and
- Preventing the creation of new barriers and/or perpetuating current barriers through procurement activities.

2024-2026 Commitments:

1. Ensure that accessibility and the needs of employees facing barriers are considered when new equipment is purchased.
2. Include accessibility considerations in RFQ, budget, and proposal templates.

Design and Delivery of Programs and Services

Accessible 'design and delivery of programs and services' considers the needs of all individuals and are adapted to ensure accessibility and understanding.

Objectives:

- Ensuring that all programs and services are designed and delivered in a manner that incorporates accessibility considerations, and
- Reviewing current programs and services for any barriers to meeting the diverse needs of all individuals.

2024-2026 Commitments:

1. Review all programs, processes, policies/procedures, and services to ensure that accessibility has been considered.
2. Create an Accessibility Checklist to help ensure key accessibility requirements are considered.
3. Provide training on the *Accessible Canada Act* and *Accessible Canada Regulations* for employees who are responsible for developing and delivering programs, processes, policies, and procedures.

Transportation

Please Note: Western Canada Express Inc. does not coordinate a transportation system, or a fleet of transportation vehicles, as defined in the *Accessible Canada Act*. This means that standards for transportation are not included in the scope of this plan.

Consultations

To align with Western Canada Express Inc.'s commitment to make our workplace environment accessible to all, we have developed this plan in consultation with our employees, including those with disabilities.

All employees were invited to participate in a company-wide Accessibility Survey featuring focused questions relating to each area defined in Section 5 of the *Accessible Canada Act*, current programming, policies and processes, and their own individual experience relating to accessibility within the workplace.

These surveys were conducted anonymously, with the option to provide contact information for additional consultation, if desired.

We will continue to survey employees, including those with disabilities, and any working groups that have been developed as a part of this Accessibility Plan, to measure progress and ensure that we realize the objectives and commitments outlined in this plan. We have also provided mechanisms for employees to give and receive additional feedback over the next three (3) years as we take continued action to address accessibility within the workplace.

We have also consulted and utilized the data and resources provided by industry organizations such as Trucking HR Canada and engaged an independent Human Resources consultant in the development of this plan to ensure the adoption of best practices as they relate to the transportation and logistics industry specifically.

Record Keeping

Western Canada Express Inc. is required to keep copies of accessibility plans for a period of seven (7) years from the date on which that version was required to be published.

Electronic versions of the accessibility plans will be available on our public web platform via the following link: <https://www.westerncanadaexpress.com>

Physical versions of the accessibility plans will be posted and available to the public at the following location(s):

- 62 Administration Road, Concord, Ontario, L4K 2R7
- 2025 Chemin St. Francois, Dorval, Quebec, H9P 1K3
- 1130 King Edward Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0R2
- 16718-121 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5V 1P6
- 16068 Portside Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V6W 1M1

- END -