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February 10, 2017

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To Whom It May Concern

Re: Redraft Bill 59 (Nova Scotia Accessibility Act)

This is a submission in support of the Bill 59 Community Alliance's efforts to improve accessibility for disabled persons through Redraft Bill 59. It is also a recommendation that legislators in Nova Scotia will adhere closely to the four principles developed by the James McGregor Stewart Society as they consider the Act in committee. These principles are sensible, practical and come from a source with wide experience of matters such as this.

Neither my wife nor I are disabled. I recently had an operation to reconstruct an arthritic ankle, however, which was followed by a lengthy period of recovery and rehabilitation. For the first part of this recovery period I was in a cast, my movements restricted and only allowed with the help of crutches or a walker. To me this was a temporary inconvenience, before I eventually began walking around more or less normally again, as I now do. But it did give me ample time to consider the plight of the many people with permanent physical or sensory disabilities, and the life choices they face.

These are the people who will benefit from improved accessibility and equality provisions. Most are already useful members of our society, contributing both to their communities and the economy in spite of the barriers they face on an everyday basis. We owe them the opportunity to live better lives through better laws and measures that affect them directly.

Signed

(Maurice Mandale)