

JUNE 4, 2005

Access Awareness Day

in B.C.



SPARC BC is:

**MAKING
SPACE FOR
EVERYONE**



SPARC BC's MISSION

*The Social Planning
and Research Council
of British Columbia
(SPARC BC) works
with communities in
building a just and
healthy society for all.*

Accessibility at SPARC BC

B.C.'s leader in research, community development, accessibility, partnerships, and public education.

- Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities
- Access Awareness Day - **June 4, 2005.**
- Research and community development projects
- Systemic advocacy for greater community accessibility

“Making Space for Everyone”

PAST ACCESS AWARENESS DAYS

2004: “Accessibility—
Today’s Opportunity”

2003: “Accessibility
Matters to Me!”

2002: “Designated
Accessible Parking”

2001: “Equal Access
Equals Opportunity”

- Inform (distribute educational materials)
- Partner with SPARC BC
- Organize an event and/or information sessions
- Hold a simulation workshop

Our Partners in Community Accessibility





Designing for Accessibility

ACCESSIBILITY INCLUDES

Physical Access

Access to Services

Social Inclusion

Equality and Respect

Goals:

- Freedom of movement
- Sense of inclusion
- Equal participation
- Equity in opportunities

Need to consider :

- Mobility Impairments
- Visual Impairments
- Hearing Impairments
- Invisible Impairments

B.C. BUILDING CODES

The standards for the design of accessible housing units and commercial or public buildings is controlled by the BC Building Code and local municipal by-laws.

- **Space, pathways, and corridors**
- **Room to maneuver**
- **The right tools for the job**
- **Staff diversity training**
- **Respectful environment**



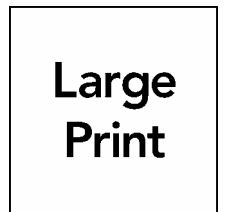
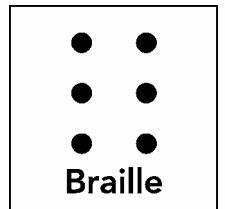


WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

The World Wide Web Consortium (www.w3c.org) has developed the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), a set of design standards that maximize the accessibility of information on the web. For more information, visit www.w3c.org/WAI

Visual Impairments

- **Space, pathways, and corridors**
- **Accessible communications**
- **Safety and emergency considerations**

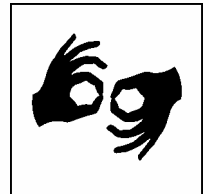
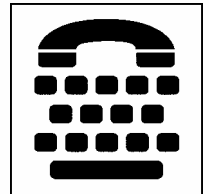


Hearing Impairments

BEING HEARD

For public meetings, consider using a sign language interpreter or live captioning.

- **Consistent signage**
- **Communications technology**
- **Safety measures**



Cognitive Impairments

BEING INCLUSIVE

Use consistent, plain language, and provide modern technological assistance.

- **Promote understanding**
- **Plain language**
- **Show consideration**



UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The principle of universal design aims to make products and environments usable by all people to the greatest extent possible without the need for adoption or specialized design.

This benefits ALL members of a community.

What Can You Do?

- Recognize
- Create and support
- Be considerate
- Use the accessibility lens
- Renovate

SPARC BC Accessibility Projects

LEARN MORE

To learn more about
SPARC BC's
accessibility work or
about how to get
involved, visit our
website at

sparc.bc.ca/accessibility

- Access Awareness Campaign
- Community Accessibility Contacts Initiative – updated
- Dialogue on Community Accessibility
- Living with Disabilities on Income Assistance



SPARC BC

Founded: 1966

First Access

Awareness Day: 1996

*SPARC BC Members:
14,000+*

*Parking Permit
Holders: 85,000+*

Contact Info

Emese Szücs

SPARC BC

201 – 221 East 10th Ave.

Vancouver, BC V5T 4V3

PHONE (604) 718-7756

EMAIL emeses@sparc.bc.ca

WEB www.sparc.bc.ca

