



**Application Form
Accessibility Advisory Committee Members**

Applicant Name: Denise Nickerson

Civic Address: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Home Phone:

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Career Practitioner/Team Lead [REDACTED]

Describe how your lived experience, community involvement, education, or work might be helpful to this committee.

Please see attached word document.

Why are you interested in serving on this committee?

What contribution do you believe you can make to this committee?

What past contributions have you made on a similar committee or organization?

What experience do you have in exchanging your views with others and in appreciating and respecting the skills, abilities and knowledge of others?

Are you a person with a disability, or do you represent an organization representing people with disabilities?

Organization/sector you are representing (if applicable): If you are a person with a disability or represent an organization representing people with disabilities, what disability/disabilities do you or your organization represent?

Note: Members with a variety of disabilities will bring diverse perspectives to this committee. We will strive to accommodate all members to ensure they are able to fully participate.

D. Nickerson

Applicant Signature

Nov. 3 / 2020

Date

Describe how your lived experience, community involvement, education, or work might be helpful to this committee.

Primarily it is my work experience that has provided me with experience with disability-related issues and knowledge of accessibility standards / requirements. I have worked with PWD's, their families, advocates, employers and other supporting organizations for nearly 15 years (since 2006).

Why are you interested in serving on this committee?

I am interested in serving on this committee as I feel I may have some beneficial information to provide and look forward to learning more through other committee members. I would like to help the MoB to move towards becoming an even more inclusive community.

What contribution do you believe you can make to this committee?

Sharing examples of what clients have needed in the past for accessibility supports. Assistance with grant writing (if required). Promoting the committee and accessibility supports to organizations / employers and MoB residents.

What past contributions have you made on a similar committee or organization?

I have been a member of the Shelburne County Learning Network for over a decade. Accessibility requirements for learners were discussed often over the last few years as we moved offices (in Barrington and Shelburne locations) and had to meet accessibility standards for the learners and our funders. Also through my employment at Southwest Employment Services, a Nova Scotia Works Centre we have moved offices (in Shelburne) and had to ensure accessibility standards were met by contractors (proper door width for wheelchair users, automated door, ramp, braille on some of the signage, size and clarity of signage for visually impaired, enough space between furniture to accommodate wheelchairs, accessible technology / programs on our 'universal design' public computer (for learning disabilities, physical disabilities, deaf/ hard of hearing, visually impaired, etc.).

What experience do you have in exchanging your views with others and in appreciating and respecting the skills, abilities and knowledge of others?

I understand the importance of written and verbal communication, as well as listening skills. I often speak with colleagues, community groups and clients about our programs and services, and deliver presentations / workshops. I value the input of others and understand that listening is perhaps even more valuable than speaking. I feel I can develop positive relationships that are based on trust, respect, empathy and confidentiality.

Are you a person with a disability, or do you represent an organization representing people with disabilities?

Organization - Southwest Employment Services, a Nova Scotia Works Centre. We are funded by the provincial government – Employment Nova Scotia. I am currently employed as a Career Practitioner (Case Manager) and Team Lead. I help job seekers (including those with disabilities or other barriers to employment) access a variety of services and / funding programs, including assessments, return to work action plans, etc. I am also the Regional Representative for the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities program (funded by the federal government – Service Canada). The Opportunities Fund (OPPS) program serves persons with disabilities and employers in programs such as Skills for Employment (schooling), Work Experience (wage subsidies with employers) and Self Employment (for PWD's looking to start their own business). We also help employers with training and support with accommodations they may need when hiring a person with a disability (disability related equipment, job coach services, etc.). The territory I cover for the Opportunities Fund program is Shelburne, Yarmouth, Digby, Annapolis and Kings counties.

Organization / sector you are representing (if applicable): If you are a person with a disability or represent an organization representing people with disabilities, what disability / disabilities do you or your organization represent?

I work in the Employment Services field. We serve all Nova Scotians including those with disabilities. Formerly called West Nova Inclusive Employment Society – at that time we served only persons with disabilities (all disability types). I worked exclusively with clients with disabilities for over 10 years. Funded by Employment Nova Scotia and Service Canada, I am experienced in working within the guidelines of our funders, preparing reports and applications for funding. We also have a strong working relationship with the Department of Community Services and have accessed their funding programs many times in the past for our mutual clients.