Accessibility Plan: Year 2 Progress Report Canadian Museum of History and Canadian War Museum

# Contents

1.0	General	4
1.1	Summary of Progress	4
1.2	Contact Information and Feedback Process	5
1.3	Glossary	6
2.0	Highlights	7
3.0	Areas Described Under Section 5 of the Accessible Canada Act (ACA)	8
3.1	Universal	8
3.2	The Built Environment	10
3.3	Employment	11
3.4	Information and Communications Technologies	12
3.5	Communication, Other Than Information and Communication Technologies	13
3.6	Design and Delivery of Programs and Services	14
3.7	Procurement of Goods, Services, and Facilities	16
3.8	Transportation	17
4.0	Consultations	17
4.1	Concept Testing for Renewal of the Canadian Children's Museum	17
4.2	Progress Report Consultation	18
4.3	Visitor Research and Evaluation	19
5.0	Feedback	22

### 1.0 General

The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) is a federal law designed to make Canada more accessible for everyone. Our first Accessibility Plan, published in December 2022, outlines what we will do in 2023, 2024 and 2025. We are now publishing our second annual Progress Report, which covers the improvements made and what we've learned about accessibility in 2024. It also shares updates on all accessibility actions we took in 2024.

### 1.1 Summary of Progress

Since we published our first Progress Report last year, we have learned a lot about what time and resources are needed and available to us to advance accessibility initiatives at the Museums. We've incorporated these learnings by revising timelines, re-allocating resources, and aligning some initiatives with pre-existing ones to ensure that the accessibility improvements we're making are the ones that are needed the most. The employee working group we formed in 2022 has been critical in tracking progress and keeping lines of communication open between different departments.

As you will see in this report, many of the actions for 2024 are complete. These include:

- Providing employees and volunteers with accessibility training within three months of starting at the Museum;
- Purchasing portable seating for visitors to the Museums and making the seating available for use in the Museums;
- Completing an update of our accommodations processes and sharing this update with managers and employees;
- Creating and filling a summer student work position that focused on advancing accessibility initiatives at the Museums;
- Making noise-cancelling headphones available to Museum visitors; and
- Revising our job postings to ensure they are inclusive of people with disabilities.

#### 1.2 Contact Information and Feedback Process

We welcome feedback, including feedback submitted anonymously. Feedback may be provided by employees, volunteers, visitors and anyone else who comes into contact with the Museums. We are committed to reviewing all feedback we receive and taking steps to address the barriers identified.

You can submit feedback about accessibility by contacting:

### HR Programs Support Specialist, People and Culture

Email: accessible@historymuseum.ca

Telephone:

Local: 819-776-7000 Toll free: 1-800-555-5621

TTY for people with hearing disabilities: 819-776-7003

By mail:

Canadian Museum of History Canadian War Museum

100 Laurier Street 1 Vimy Place

Gatineau QC K1A 0M8 Ottawa ON K1A 0M8

In person:

Information Information

Canadian Museum of History Canadian War Museum

100 Laurier Street 1 Vimy Place

Gatineau QC K1A 0M8 Ottawa ON K1A 0M8

On our feedback pages:

historymuseum.ca/about/contact-us warmuseum.ca/about/contact-us

Via social media:

### **Canadian Museum of History**

Facebook: Canadian History
Museum (@CanMusHistory)
Instagram: @CanMusHistory

X: @CanMusHistory

### **Canadian War Museum**

Facebook: <u>Canadian War</u>
<u>Museum (@warmuseum)</u>
Instagram: <u>@CanWarMuseum</u>

X: @CanWarMuseum

You can also request alternative formats of our Accessibility Plan, this Progress Report, the 2023 Progress Report and a description of our feedback process by contacting:

**HR Programs Support Specialist, People and Culture** 

Email: accessible@historymuseum.ca

The Museums commit to providing this Progress Report in alternative formats, as quickly as possible, to those who request it. We commit to meeting the following deadlines from the time the request is made:

• Print: 15 days

Large print (increased font size): 15 days

Braille: 45 days

Audio (a recording of the text read aloud): 45 days

An electronic version of our Accessibility Plan and this Progress Report, designed to work with assistive technology, can be downloaded from our websites:

historymuseum.ca/about/accessibility-plan

warmuseum.ca/about/accessibility-plan

## 1.3 Glossary

**Accessibility Audit:** An assessment of barriers for people with disabilities. An audit is normally undertaken by different organizations, using a shared set of standards.

**Administrative Spaces:** Spaces not accessible to the public, including offices and meeting rooms.

**Built Environment:** Human-made structures, including sidewalks, roads, buildings and furniture.

**Consultation Framework:** A plan that indicates how, when and with whom the Museums will consult.

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Strategy:** A plan the Museums have worked on designed to ensure that people are treated fairly and with respect, and that they are given equal opportunities. This document applies to all individuals, regardless of background, identity or ability.

**Flesch-Kincaid Reading Grade Level:** A readability test designed to help determine how difficult it is to understand a piece of writing in English.

**Digital Engagement Strategy:** The Museum's strategy for connecting with audiences through digital channels.

**Portable Seating:** Accessible seating options designed to be transported and used throughout the Museums by members of the public with reduced mobility.

**Terms of Reference:** A committee or board document describing who they are, what they do, and how they will work.

## 2.0 Highlights

### New Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

We are excited to announce the publication of the Canadian Museum of History's first-ever external, accessible EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility) Strategy, following the official launch of our five-year <a href="Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Strategy">Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Strategy</a>. One of the key pillars is creating accessible Museum spaces for everyone. We have also created an EDIA implementation plan to guide the completion of this work going forward. You can learn more about these commitments directly from Museum leadership in this <a href="Video">Video</a>.

### **Digital Museums Canada**

Digital Museums Canada launched several accessibility pilot programs in 2024, including a paid summer student position with priority for students with disabilities. The summer student, mentored by DMC staff, worked on several accessibility initiatives. We made strategic connections with other museums and agencies in the National Capital Region and visited those with accessibility labs to learn more about assistive

technologies, tools and methodologies. This research will help us as we develop a small-scale accessibility lab for internal use at the Canadian Museum of History.

# 3.0 Areas Described Under Section 5 of the *Accessible Canada Act (ACA)*

### 3.1 Universal

Action	Progress
By March 2024, all employees and	Done. All new employees receive training
volunteers receive basic accessibility	within three months of starting at the
training.	Museums. Trainees have reported greater
	confidence in interacting with and talking
	about people with disabilities.
By December 2025, develop a consultation	Action in progress. The collaborative
framework.	consultation work with LTRT has provided
	multiple opportunities to consult with
	people with disabilities. The consultation
	sessions have provided Museum
	employees with insights into how lived
	experiences of people with disabilities
	can be incorporated into the planning and
	delivery of accessible and inclusive built
	environment spaces and visitor
	experiences. The consultation framework
	will be finalized for inclusion in the new
	2026–2028 Three-Year Accessibility Plan.
Establish an internal advisory group of	Action in progress. Internal discussions
employees with disabilities in 2024.	have already begun at the Museums to
	determine the best approach for

establishing and managing this internal advisory group of employees with disabilities. Suggestions emerging from the EDIA Steering Group and the Diversity and Inclusion Group include leveraging the resources within these groups to provide feedback and consultation on accessibility initiatives. As part of this process, consultations are being held with these groups, which also include individuals with disabilities, to ensure their perspectives are integral to shaping effective and inclusive strategies. By January 2025, establish an external Action in progress. Terms of reference advisory group. for the Museums' future Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACC) have been drafted. This action is being aligned with the implementation of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Strategy. The Museum's external Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) will be up and running in order to be consulted on the new Three-Year Accessibility Plan 2026–2028. We expect this to be complete by September 2025. By January 2025, develop a training plan Action in progress. In March 2024, the identifying other training needs to support Public Affairs and Digital Engagement accessibility initiatives. Strategy teams partnered to deliver a series of four accessibility workshops to

internal staff with roles in communications, digital content, and events delivery. The <u>Digital Engagement</u>

<u>Strategy</u> team is coordinating the development, delivery and dissemination of tools and guides for creating accessible digital content and will publish these resources on our intranet by March 2025.

### 3.2 The Built Environment

Action	Progress
By December 2024, we will review and	Done. We are now developing a work
update existing exhibition display	plan for implementing the updates. We
standards to improve accessibility. This will	expect we will have this work plan and the
include how we place panels, objects and	new standards ready in 2025.
structures within our exhibition spaces.	
By December 2024, we will review and	Done. We are now elaborating a work
update existing exhibition text and graphic	plan for implementing the updates. We
standards to ensure accessibility. This will	will be developing a shared approach to
include considering font sizes and other	advancing new standards across the
factors that affect text readability in our	Museums.
exhibitions. Starting in 2025, these	
standards will be applied when developing	
new exhibitions.	
In 2023, review and update the Plan Your	Action in progress. Details on the
Visit webpages for both Museums, to add	progress of this action can be found

information about accessibility features and	below in the section Communications
known barriers.	(Other than ICT).
By December 2024, deliver the first phase	Done. We are replacing fluorescent
of the ongoing LED lighting-conversion	lighting with LED lighting throughout the
project.	Museums in phases.
In 2024, make portable seating available to	Done. Portable seating is available to
visitors.	Museum visitors at the reception desk on
	a first-come, first-served basis.
Work with an accessibility advisory group	<b>Done.</b> For more information about the
throughout the Canadian Children's	feedback shared in these meetings see
Museum Renewal (CCMR) project. This	Section 4: Consultations.
activity will be ongoing.	
By January 2024, provide training to	Done.
visitor-facing staff related to updated or	
new processes to assist visitors who use	
wheelchairs or scooters.	

# 3.3 Employment

Action	Progress
By March 2024, develop guidelines for	Done.
accessible meetings.	
By March 2024, communicate new	<b>Done.</b> Staff report greater confidence in
guidelines for accessible meetings to staff.	how to host accessible meetings, and
	attendees with disabilities report fewer
	barriers in meetings.
By June 2024, take steps to ensure that the	Action in progress. The Museums
staff intranet is more accessible. Begin to	replaced their outdated intranets with a
identify barriers and prioritize solutions, in	new and more accessible platform in

consultation with an internal advisory	June 2023. A new architecture and
group of employees with disabilities.	hierarchy were introduced, making it
	easier to navigate. The identification of
	remaining barriers, and prioritization of
	solutions, will be done in consultation with
	an internal advisory committee, once this
	committee is created. We expect to
	complete this action by June 2025.
By March 2024, confirm skills or provide	Done.
training on inclusive job postings.	
By December 2024, review new job	Done.
postings and job descriptions to ensure	
that they are inclusive of people with	
disabilities.	
Write new job postings in plain language.	Done. Job postings are now written in
	plain language at a Flesch-Kincaid Grade
	8 reading level or lower.
In 2024, update our accommodations	Done.
processes, communicate the updates to	
managers and employees and provide	
required training.	

# 3.4 Information and Communications Technologies

Action	Progress
By March 2024, complete an accessibility	Action in progress. Updated websites
audit of the Museums' websites (including	were launched in November 2024 in
the Plan Your Visit webpages, calendars of	compliance with WCAG 2.1 AA standards.
events, blogs, and collections searches).	User testing of the new websites by

	people with disabilities was completed in November and December of 2024. We expect to conduct an audit of the new websites by March 2025.
By December 2024, complete a review of social media content and practices for	Done.
accessibility.	
By 2025, remove the biggest barriers on	Action in progress. The removal of
the Museums' websites and social media	barriers in our social media has been
platforms and make sure the most important	completed. The websites were recently
information is accessible.	redesigned, and we expect this action to
	be complete by December 2025.

# 3.5 Communication, Other Than Information and Communication Technologies

Action	Progress
By March 2024, develop and implement	Action in progress. We expect this to be
accessible PowerPoint and Word templates.	complete by December 2025.
By March 2024, develop a checklist for	Action in progress. We expect this to be
making documents accessible in Word,	complete by December 2025.
PowerPoint, PDF, Excel and other media	
and digital formats.	
By December 2023, establish internal	Done.
standards for plain language and inclusive	
language. Develop processes to meet these	
standards.	

By March 2024, establish internal processes to respond to and fulfill requests for	Done.
materials in alternative formats.	
Continue to provide sign language	Ongoing.
interpretation and captioning at in-person	
and virtual public events and programs,	
when requested in advance.	
By February 2024, review and update the	<b>Done.</b> The updated Plan Your Visit
Plan Your Visit webpages for both Museums	webpages are now live and accessible to
and provide information on accessibility	the public.
features and known barriers at the	
Museums, including a list of available	
amenities in accessible washrooms.	
By December 2024, research social stories	Done.
best practices and develop initial	
storyboards.	

# 3.6 Design and Delivery of Programs and Services

Action	Progress
By December 2023, develop and	Action in progress. We expect this action
implement accessible PowerPoint and	to be complete by December 2025.
Word templates.	
In 2024, research and purchase noise-	Done.
cancelling headphones for visitor use.	
By March 2024, make noise-cancelling	Done. Noise-cancelling headphones can
headphones available to visitors. Set up	now be reserved ahead of time by our
visitor lending processes and	visitors through our website and call
communications.	centre. They are also available at the

	Information desks. The headphones are available free of charge.
By March 2024, add information about headphones to the Plan Your Visit webpages.	Done.
By December 2024, revise the Visitor Code of Conduct to be more inclusive.	<b>Done.</b> The updated Visitor Code of Conduct has been posted to the Museums' website.
By December 2024, provide audit training to employees who interact with the public (Visitor Services staff, Security staff, Library and Research Centre staff, volunteers, Gift Shop and Food Services staff, etc.).	Done. We reviewed the training offered to front-line staff and they have access to the ReThink Ability module that includes training on interacting with people with disabilities. We are looking at more customized training in the future, including demonstrative training involving visitors with disabilities in early 2025.
By December 2023, review and revise existing accessibility training for customer service staff; align with and enhance basic accessibility training.	Done. We reviewed the training offered to front-line staff and they have access to the ReThink Ability module that includes training on interacting with people with disabilities. We are looking at more customized training in the future.
By December 2024, write and implement a Scent-Free Directive. Post the directive on the Museums' websites, in employee training manuals and on the intranet.	<b>Done.</b> The Scent-Free Directive was developed, approved and communicated to staff by the end of November.
By March 2024, provide a form on the Museums' websites, along with a	<b>Done.</b> Scooters and other mobility devices such as wheelchairs and walkers can be

telephone number for visitors to request	booked ahead of visits via our website or
scooters for visits.	call centre. Visitors are making use of the
	reservation system, as are employees who
	need to coordinate mobility devices for VIP
	guests.
By March 2024, ensure that the Canadian	Done.
War Museum has at least one dedicated	
mobility device available to volunteers.	
By December 2024, audit how other	Done.
cultural institutions approach quiet/loud	
hours. Assess operational requirements.	
By December 2024, consult with people	Done. In November 2024, we consulted
with disabilities on preferred approaches	with an external Accessibility Advisory
for quiet/loud hours for the Museums.	Group made up of people with diverse
	disabilities and backgrounds to discuss
	quiet/loud hours for the Museums, and how
	sensory-friendly visiting hours should be
	approached.

# 3.7 Procurement of Goods, Services, and Facilities

Action	Progress
By March 2024, establish a source list for	Revised. After looking into creating a
required accessibility services (for example,	source list we determined that it was a
plain-language writers, editors and	better use of vendors' time to have us
translators; Braille, digital, audio, captioning,	contact them when the need arises.
descriptive video, sign language	Services will instead be contracted on an
interpretation).	as-needed basis.

### 3.8 Transportation

We do not provide transportation to the public. However, we do understand that it is our responsibility to be aware of transportation barriers that may affect employees or visitors. Our Accessibility Plan currently includes addressing one transportation-related barrier in the built environment. We have also identified issues with snow removal along bus routes outside our buildings. In addition, the Museums have received feedback on access to our sites during large-scale events hosted on Museum grounds, or nearby.

The Museums will continue working with event partners to address specific barriers to accessibility.

### 4.0 Consultations

The Canadian Museum of History and the Canadian War Museum continued to work with Left Turn Right Turn (LTRT), a consulting firm specializing in accessibility, through its Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG). The AAG consists of 8 to 10 people who have various disabilities as well as representation from a variety of other groups (such as Francophones and Anglophones, women, racialized people, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, Indigenous people, rural inhabitants). AAG members meet with LTRT clients to discuss accessibility barriers and share their stories, opinions and priorities. The Museum has engaged with the AAG in 2024 on the following projects:

- 1. The Canadian Children's Museum Renewal: two consultations on February 21 and 28, 2024
- 2. Museum's Accessibility Plan Progress Report: consultation on October 16, 2024
- Museum of History Main Lobby washrooms renovation: consultation on November 20, 2024 – completed
- 4. Museum of History and War Museum new website user testing: consultation in November/December 2024.

# 4.1 Concept Testing for Renewal of the Canadian Children's Museum

The Canadian Children's Museum Renewal Project consulted with LTRT's Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) on February 21 and 28, 2024. These two consultations gathered

feedback regarding potential themes and activities under consideration for the renewal of the Canadian Children's Museum (CCM).

Attendees of the AAG meetings included a mix of parents with disabilities and caregivers of children with disabilities. In some cases, participants had disabilities and were caregivers of children with disabilities. The discussion covered participants' perceptions of the themes and possible activities being considered for the renewed CCM. These perceptions were based on the information made available to them. Overall considerations discussed included: sensory over-stimulation, free play and structure, sign language, physical play, and visual accessibility.

Participants were highly engaged in the discussions and demonstrated appreciation that the Museum was consulting disability communities prior to making key decisions. Many expressed an interest in attending the Museum after the revitalization work is complete. This is an ideal outcome. Although these consultations were a "one-off" for the Museum, they can be considered an opportunity for ongoing relationship building. People with disabilities who are enthusiastic about the accessibility of space can serve as wonderful informal community ambassadors if the relationship is well maintained.

A detailed report was produced, and feedback from the AAG has been integrated into concept planning. Also, some feedback participants gave at both meetings can be applied quite broadly to the Museum's decisions about themes, activities and overall space considerations.

### 4.2 Progress Report Consultation

The Museums consulted with the AAG in preparing this Progress Report. AAG members were asked to read through a draft of the report and provide feedback on our progress, overall impressions of the report's formatting and organization, and anything they felt was missing. We received the following feedback:

The report was too long, which made it difficult to read.

- Organizing the actions into tables helped with accessibility and understanding the information.
- There was too much detail in certain parts of the report.
- There was too little detail about the progress made on the actions and their results. For example: What changes are the Museums making to exhibition standards?
- The members were impressed by how much we had accomplished in 2024 and felt that we were dedicating a lot of resources to accessibility initiatives.
- Members would like to see the Museums offer materials in accessible formats
  without people having to request them. For example, having audio files of
  progress reports and plans, Braille-ready files and ASL interpreted texts available
  on the Museums' websites.

We have incorporated the feedback from the AAG into the final version of the Progress Report and have shared more information on specific actions where we have been able to. We sincerely thank the AAG members for their honest and actionable feedback.

#### 4.3 Visitor Research and Evaluation

In 2023–2024, the Canadian Museum of History and Canadian War Museum conducted several visitor research studies on and off site, which included questions about accessibility. These included:

### **General Audience Survey**

In August and September 2023, 355 visitors at the Museum of History and 353 visitors at the War Museum were engaged after their visits and were asked to fill out a questionnaire if they were 16 years of age or older.

Visitors were asked to rate the accessibility of the Museums in terms of their spaces, amenities, exhibitions and programs. These were the results:

94% of respondents scored accessibility positively at the Museum of History,
 with roughly half scoring accessibility as "excellent," and no respondents

- providing a "very poor" rating. It should be noted that only a small number of respondents self-identified as having a disability (18 total respondents).
- Respondents identified a few areas for improvement at the Museum of History,
   including wheelchair access, ramps, railing/elevator considerations and parking.
- More than 93% of respondents scored accessibility positively at the War Museum, with roughly half scoring accessibility as "excellent," and no visitors providing a "very poor" rating. It should be noted that only a small number of respondents self-identified as having a disability (22 total respondents).
- Respondents identified a few areas for improvement at the War Museum, including the need for improved signage, lighting and displaying of text, difficulties entering the Museum during construction, sensory considerations, wheelchair access, ramps, and railing/elevator considerations.

The Museums will continue to ask for feedback on accessibility in future general audience surveys. We are currently collaborating with other national museums to improve our questions regarding accessibility, so we can better identify specific barriers to visits.

### Regional and National Awareness and Outreach Study

In winter 2024, the Museums surveyed 1,249 Canadians and 1,467 residents in the Toronto–Montréal corridor (including the National Capital Region) through an online panel. Respondents were a mix of recent visitors to the Museums, people who have visited in the past, and people who have never visited. Both studies included an oversample of **200** respondents from EDIA groups, including people with disabilities, to ensure good representation. Results were weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the country based on the latest census data (2021).

Some interesting findings include:

- "Going to a place that makes you feel welcome" is the top priority for Canadians when considering a visit to the Museums.
- When respondents were asked about the importance of the Museums achieving certain outcomes, 9 in 10 Canadians indicated that the following was important to them: "All Canadians, including people with a range of disabilities, can access our exhibitions, programs and services."
- 6 in 10 Canadians surveyed said they would be more interested in visiting if the
  Museums offered accessible programs aimed at diverse audiences, including
  neurodiverse individuals, people living with dementia, people who are visually
  impaired, etc. Respondents also indicated that they would be more interested in
  inclusive programming if they were to learn that it had been developed in
  collaboration with diverse communities.

Some key takeaways from this study include the need to address negative attitude affinities (for example, when people believe an organization is "not for people like me") by ensuring that the Museums are taking the necessary actions to be perceived as welcoming for diverse audiences. This includes delivering on Accessibility Plan commitments, including increased collaboration with the disability community to develop accessible and inclusive exhibitions, programs and services.

### **Evaluations of Educational Programs**

In 2023–2024, the Museums also updated their questionnaires for evaluating virtual school programs and educational kits (shipped to schools across Canada) to include accessibility questions. Teachers were asked to identify if students in their class had disabilities and to rate the accessibility of the programs/materials. Most teachers rated the accessibility of programs/materials as "excellent." A full report of findings has not yet been produced.

### 5.0 Feedback

Since the Canadian Museum of History first published its Accessibility Plan on December 23, 2022, a feedback mechanism has been in place to receive comments, questions, complaints and recommendations from the Museum's employees and its public audience. Although the mechanism is intended for feedback on the Accessibility Plan and subsequent progress reports, additional feedback related to accessibility has been received through the Museums' online web forms or sent to the Museum's <a href="mailto:accessible@historymuseum.ca">accessible@historymuseum.ca</a> / <a href="mailto:accessible@warmuseum.ca">accessible@warmuseum.ca</a> email inbox. The Museum did not receive any requests for alternate formats of its Accessibility Plan or 2023 Progress Report in 2024.

The following is a summary of the volume of feedback received, by theme, from January 1 to November 30, 2024.

#### Built environment:

- Six comments about our mobility devices (wheelchair availability and the reservation process)
- Three comments about accessible washrooms (access to adult change tables)
- Two comments about accessible parking
- One comment about the accessible arrival experience
- One comment about wheelchair accessibility in the Children's Museum
- One comment about the accessibility of the Museum of History's Theatre
- One comment about the Museums'\ accessibility in general
- Design and delivery of programs and services:
  - Two comments about the Access 2 Card. The Access 2 Card is a partnership between Easter Seals and cultural attractions to provide access to persons with disabilities.

- Two comments about visiting with support persons
- Two comments about group visit access and discounts
- One comment about the accessibility- and disability-related exhibition content in the Canadian History Hall
- One comment about the Museum's phone system navigation

#### General:

- One comment about health and safety practices (such as masking)
- One comment about establishing a partnership with the Royal Ottawa
   Mental Health Centre
- One comment about networking with the National Arts Centre to share
   what accessible programs and services the Museum offers to its visitors

This feedback has provided opportunities for the Museums to acknowledge and respond to accessibility-related requests, comments, questions, complaints and recommendations. Once receipt of the feedback has been acknowledged, staff forward the comments to the appropriate department. The relevant department then decides how to handle the issue — for example, deciding whether it is possible to act on the feedback immediately, or whether it requires a longer-term solution.

Here is an example of a comment received from a visitor, as well as the response provided by the Museum:

Visitor comment received on August 4, 2024:

"Hello! If you are getting disabled ppl to call you to book attendant tickets, it would be best to provide a direct extension. It's confusing to navigate the phone menus to find the right person to talk to. It's not obvious what the right option is when working through the phone menus. After my third try, I just called the boutique. That's not great in terms of accessibility. Extensions for mobility aide rentals and the extension for getting an attendant ticket should both be easily available. This little change

would make it much easier for disabled folk to plan an accessible trip. Y'all are in a position to make this better for people like me. Thank you."

#### Response sent to visitor on August 7, 2024:

Hello [name removed], Thank you for sharing your feedback regarding your experience with our phone navigation system. We extend our sincere apologies for the frustration and inconvenience you encountered when trying to book admission tickets to the Museum. Please know that we are deeply committed to ensuring accessibility for all our visitors. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve accessibility across all facets of the Museum, we are actively working on revamping our phone navigation system to make it simpler, more efficient, and user-friendly for everyone. Your feedback will help us in this process as we strive to prioritize accessibility. In the meantime, we would greatly appreciate if you could share your phone number and contact information with us at information@historymuseum.ca. This will allow us to have one of our dedicated agents reach out to you directly to address your specific needs and ensure a seamless booking process. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to make improvements for a more inclusive and accessible experience for all our visitors. Thank you once again for reaching out and for giving us the opportunity to enhance our services."

Among other things, we have identified a need to improve how we update our Accessibility Working Group on feedback received. Leads in this group would benefit from hearing the public's comments, questions, suggestions and recommendations. This can help to ensure that systemic problems and trends are noted and prevented. We will report back on our progress in this area in next year's Progress Report.