



WELCOMING THE  
PARTICIPATION AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF CITIZENS WITH  
DISABILITIES

## starting up

TIPS TO BEGIN THE  
'MEASURING UP' PROCESS

Starting Up is a companion document to Measuring Up: Communities of Accessibility and Inclusion, a guide that helps municipalities determine how they can make their communities more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities. Starting Up offers tips used by municipalities who have begun to implement Measuring Up and is designed to help municipalities identify and remove barriers faced by people with disabilities, seniors and others.

## What is Measuring Up?

Measuring Up assists municipalities and communities assess the degree to which their citizens with disabilities are active participants in community life.

Active Participation has two dimensions:

**Accessibility** – removing barriers to ensure people with disabilities can be present in communities.

**Inclusion** - the degree to which people with disabilities are welcomed, engaged and contributing to community life.

## Key features of Measuring Up

**Self Motivated** – Each community can design its own plan using Measuring Up as a guide.

**Practical** – Fosters local solutions and learning from each other.

**Inclusive** - Involves ALL people with disabilities – those with visible and invisible disabilities.

**Collaborative** – Engages municipal, business, community and disability leaders in conversation about accessibility and inclusion.

## What does Measuring Up measure?

Measuring Up assesses four elements of accessibility and inclusion at the community level:

1. **Disability support services** - transportation, housing, emergency preparedness, personal supports, and fully accessible environments.
2. **Access to information** - universal signage, plain language, multiple formats (large print, Braille, sign language).
3. **Economic participation** - business and skills development, jobs and labour supply, disability market and consumer spending, niche markets such as accessible tourism.
4. **Community contribution** - bringing new energy and talent to social, recreational, sports and cultural life of communities.

## Creating the conditions for everyone to contribute

People with disabilities want to be active citizens. They want to contribute their talents and perform at their best. Whether through employment, tourism, business, taxation, volunteerism or other means, people with disabilities represent a sizable portion of local social and financial resources. The aging population, expected to double by 2020, further extends the imperative for communities to become accessible and inclusive. When communities encourage the full potential of all citizens, they become places where people choose to live, recreate, work, purchase goods, and contribute. Everyone benefits!

“We need to flip the whole notion of disability on its head and show the economic and other advantages for everyone of dealing with this.” -- Municipal Manager, City of Vancouver

## Tips for getting started

Although each community might use Measuring Up in a slightly different way, the common feature is the desire to engage your citizens with disabilities in a conversation about accessibility and inclusion. Based on the experiences of the Measuring Up pilot communities, we offer the following tips for getting started.

1. **Pass a Council Resolution** - Formalize your community's commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Sample resolutions can be found on our website at [www.2010LegaciesNow.com](http://www.2010LegaciesNow.com).
2. **Establish a Measuring Up Implementation Committee** - If you have an existing Disability Advisory Committee, consider adding the implementation of Measuring Up to their mandate. Try to include a cross section of business and community leaders, as well as a cross section of people with disabilities.
3. **Appoint a Measuring Up Coordinator** - This could be a member of Council, municipal staff or volunteer. Their job is to keep the process on track.
4. **Identify your Accomplishments** - Conduct an inventory of what your community has already achieved in the area of accessibility and inclusion. List what you are most proud of. This will give you a baseline to compare from year to year.
5. **Establish a Measuring Up Assessment Plan** - Use the four elements of Accessibility and Inclusion in Measuring Up as a guide to assess disability supports, access to information, economic participation, and community contribution in your community. Establish a reasonable deadline to complete the assessment.
6. **Set your Targets** - Once your assessment is complete you will set new priorities. Make them manageable and bite-sized. It is better to get started with the right people and achievable targets than to try and do everything at once.
7. **Start Again** - Begin a second round of assessment. We envision municipalities going through several rounds of assessment, each time deepening your commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

### TWO STAGES OF MEASURING UP

At some point your community may be ready to move from the stage of self - assessment to retaining an independent evaluation team. The outcome of this stage is a formal rigorous assessment based on objective comparable standards. Contact 2010 Legacies Now for more information.

## Who to involve in your Measuring Up process

From your disability community...

- People with vision, hearing, physical, mental, developmental, learning, emotional disabilities, chronic health and age related impairments along with their family members.

From the broad community...

- Employers and business organizations; seniors and youth; religious, aboriginal and multi-cultural groups; local Spirit of BC Community Committee; Community Foundations; education and health services providers; media, and others as you feel appropriate in your community.

## About 2010 Legacies Now

2010 Legacies Now is working to ensure the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games benefit all British Columbians. A not-for-profit organization created by the Province of B.C. and the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation, 2010 Legacies Now develops innovative programs and partnerships to strengthen communities across B.C.

One of the primary goals of 2010 Legacies Now is to ensure that communities throughout B.C. create sustainable legacies for the future. 2010 Legacies Now works with communities, government, corporations and non-governmental organizations to create social and economic opportunities for British Columbians regardless of background, income, ability, or location.

## How 2010 Legacies Now can help

2010 Legacies Now wants to help your municipality build a legacy of an accessible and inclusive community and can facilitate local dialogue that supports your success. At each stage of the Measuring Up process, 2010 Legacies Now can help you by:

- Connecting you with local and provincial disability organizations and their members in your area;
- Recommending steps in your community's unique process;
- Referring you to potential funding and other resources;
- Sharing information, tools and best practices from other communities; and
- Linking you to other municipalities with circumstances common to yours.

## Resources

2010 Legacies Now – [www.2010LegaciesNow.com](http://www.2010LegaciesNow.com)

The Minister's Council on Employment for Persons with Disabilities - [www.eia.gov.bc.ca/epwd](http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/epwd)

Spirit of BC Community Committees – [www.SpiritofBC.com](http://www.SpiritofBC.com)

Union of British Columbia Municipalities - [www.civicnet.bc.ca](http://www.civicnet.bc.ca)

Vancouver Foundation and Community Foundations of B.C. - [www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca)

For an electronic version of Measuring Up and for more information, please visit [www.2010LegaciesNow.com](http://www.2010LegaciesNow.com).

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