



**Victoria
Event
Centre**

Accessibility Update

**Victoria Event Centre
1415 Broad St, Victoria BC, V8W 2B2**

June 2019

Dear VEC community and guests,

This is an update on some of the work that has been happening to make the VEC a more accessible venue. You can read our previous updates from March 2019 [here](#) and August 2018 [here](#).

Since our last update, we've begun moving forward in planning the accessibility renovations, and our community consultation process.

New Community Consultations Facilitator: we are excited to announce that we've contracted Bree Gardner as a facilitator for Community Consultations. Bree is a multi-disciplinary activist originally hailing from Mi'kma'ki land and recently moved from Mohkintsis on Treaty 7. Trans-spectrum, chronically ill, queer, disabled, and experiencing poverty, Bree's primary focus is on Safer Spaces, Harm Reduction, and Accessibility. Bree has worked with music festivals across the country to provide safer spaces and harm reduction policies, spoken at numerous conferences, regularly teaches workshops, and formerly hosted a podcast addressing the ongoing concerns of grassroots organizing - particularly as it pertains to queer and trans-spectrum disabled folks. They have been working in safer spaces and accessibility for a decade, and are thrilled to be consulting with the Victoria Events Centre as a guest on Lkwungen Territory. Bree is practiced in facilitation modalities of Non-Violence Communication, Restorative Justice, High-Stakes Mediation, and Radical Accessibility.

Community Consultations: With Bree's expertise and insight, we are excited to invite our community to the first Community Consultation will take place on June 9th at the Victoria Public Library. Full details about the event can be found here: [Community Consultation](#).

In consultation with Bree, we decided that the first Community Consultation will take place without any VEC board members or permanent staff, so that folks can speak openly about any and all accessibility-related issues at the VEC. As mentioned in the last update, this first consultation will be focused on accessible lift/elevator and bathrooms in particular, because these projects need to be completed by the end of the year. The goals of the first consultation are to identify broad objectives for dignified mobility access, and discuss some of the options and possibilities that we've received from building contractors.

Renovations: we have been in talks with construction managers and architects about this project, and we're working to identify the options that are within our budget, and understand exactly what is involved in a big project like this. Predictably, there have been a lot of costs we didn't expect, and we are still working to identify what we can do with our budget for access renovations. Once we've completed the first Community Consultation, we will work with our construction manager to lay out a plan for the renovations, and we'll bring that plan to the next Community Consultation.

Survey: We want to thank everyone who filled out our survey so far; the responses have made a big impact on our plans for Community Consultations and Access Renovations more generally. At Bree's suggestion, we've **updated our survey with additional questions**, for additional feedback. If you haven't already, please consider filling out [the survey](#) on accessibility at the VEC. If you've already completed the survey, we invite you to check back in here and fill out the additional questions. An initial question will enable you to skip over all the questions that you've already answered. The survey takes 2-10 minutes to complete, and is available here: <https://goo.gl/forms/rwffUdQ3ThOKz0Sc2>

If you have questions or concerns about this process, you'd like to give us feedback, or you want to participate in the consultations but can't complete the online survey, please get in touch with us at access@victoriaeventscentre.ca. For the next phase of this project we are committed to sending regular updates and we'll check in with another update after the first consultation.