

Accessibility on Campus

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February 4, 2020

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Problem Description



The campus of St. Francis Xavier University is currently not accessible to those with a physical disability. People who have physical mobility issues and are wheelchair bound, use crutches or other aids, or have difficulty walking are not being accommodated on our campus.



St. FX only has one ramp that connects the upper and lower halves of campus.



Many buildings on campus are not wheelchair accessible.

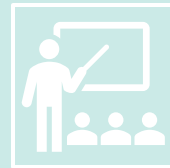


The sidewalks and walkways on campus are not properly maintained during winter months making travel with wheelchairs or aids unsafe or impossible.

Background Information

- Nearly 20% (144,000) of Nova Scotians are currently living with a disability, and this number is expected to increase as the population of the province ages.

St. FX campus framework plan 2017



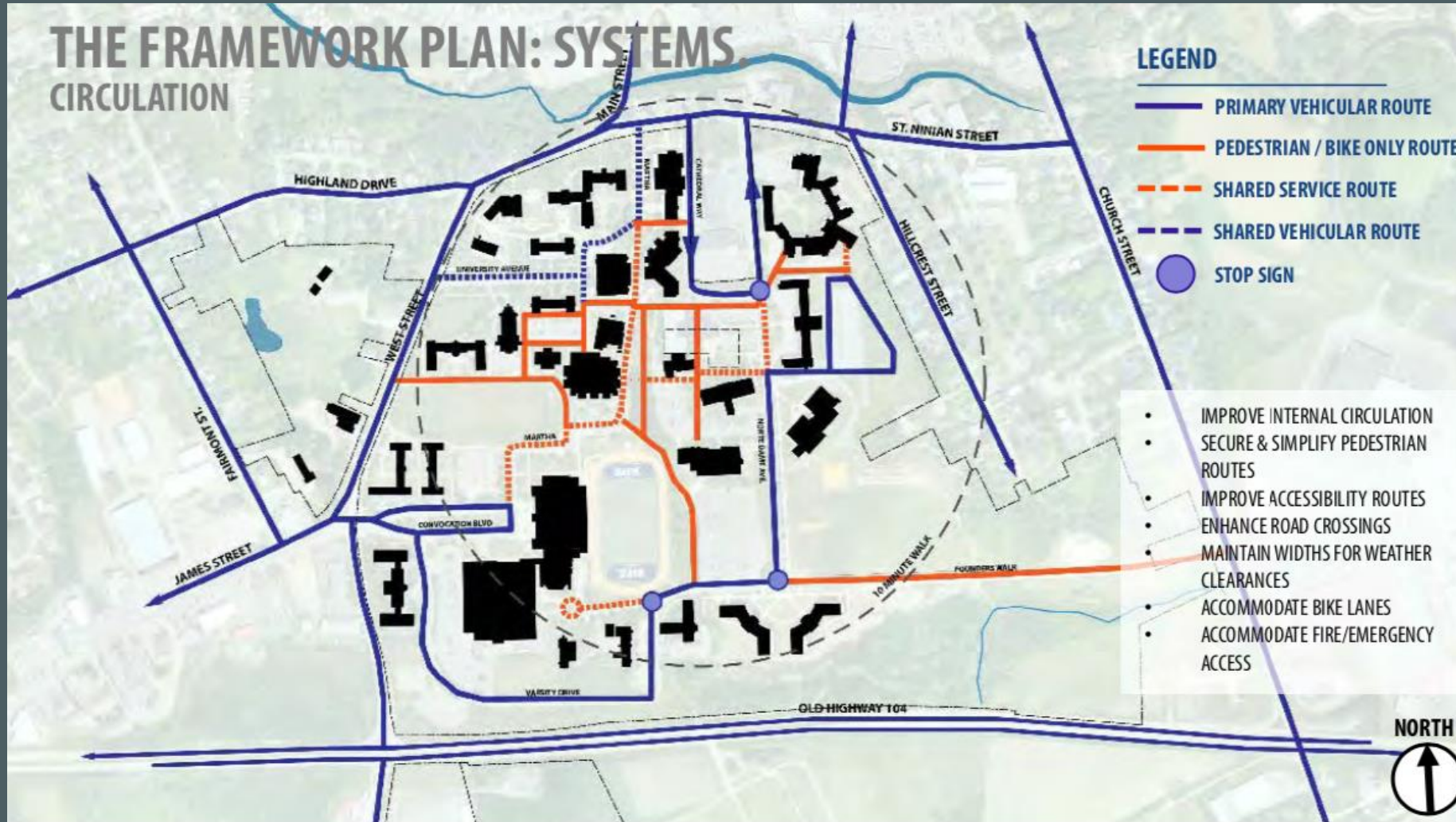
The university created a framework plan in late 2017, which identified its long and short-term strategies



The aim of the plan was to make the campus more accessible to all, specifically they planned to focus on pedestrian and vehicular circulation.

THE FRAMEWORK PLAN: SYSTEMS

CIRCULATION





View looking north

BEFORE



View looking north

AFTER (BRICK)

In comparison

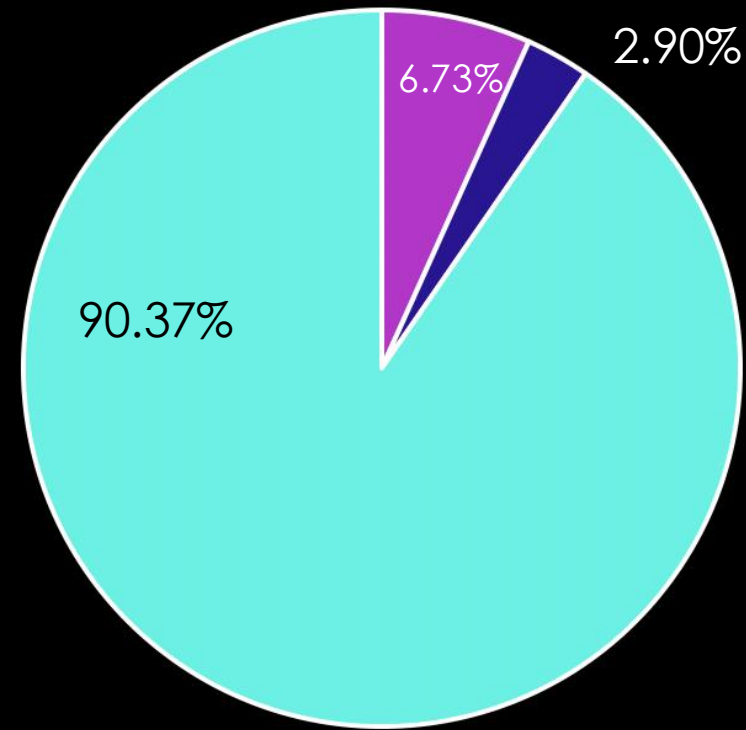
- At Dalhousie University, an accessibility audit was completed at the start of 2019 to better understand the physical characteristics of the barriers to the campus. The data gathered will be used to kick off a full-scale accessibility plan for the university over the next decade.
- The goal for the long-term plan, is to make any building or accommodation around campus fully accessible to all.
- The key areas the audit identified for improvement were washrooms and main entrances, from various buildings scattered around campus.

Survey Results

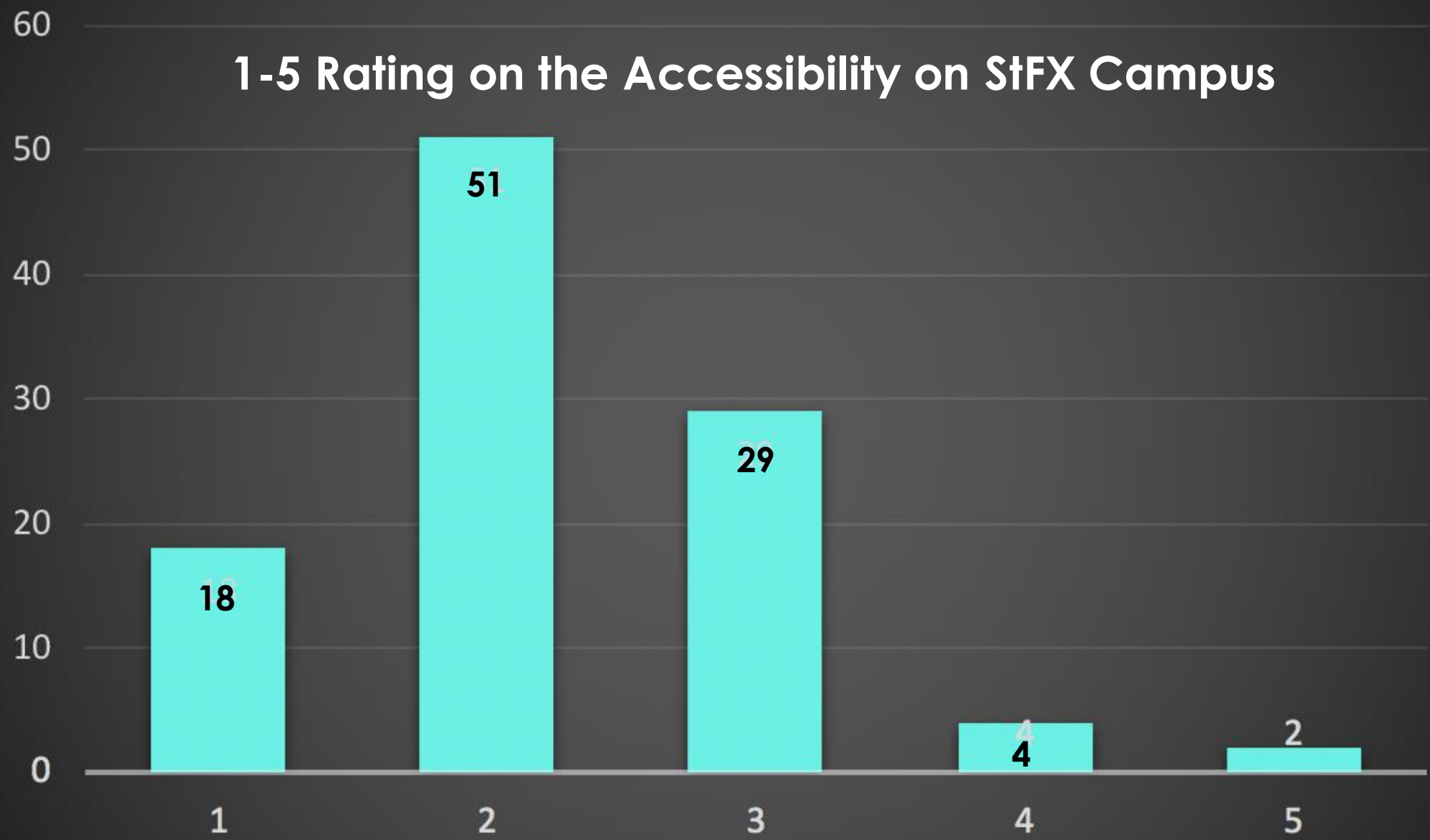
6.73 % of the people who answered our survey identify as someone who has a permanent physical disability or someone who has had a temporary physical disability while attending StFX.

90.37 % do not identify as someone with a physical disability

2.90% of people identified as a carer/ support worker



1-5 Rating on the Accessibility on StFX Campus



Survey Question

"Are there any locations or buildings on campus you feel need improvements regarding accessibility? Please be specific as possible."

- Top responses:
- 1. The Annex
- 2. Immaculata Hall
- 3. Older residence buildings

Additional Responses

- "The SUB is only accessible from the 3rd floor entrance, and there is only one main pathway to get from that area of campus to the lower campus."
- "Entrance to the Saputo Centre requires going in the Keating Centre (which often isn't shoveled) if in a wheelchair."
- "The path from MSB to Meal Hall is extremely difficult on crutches."
- "The pathway by SNP and Schwartz (should be a ramp— not just stairs!)"
- "The Annex is such a nightmare as I am on crutches."

Survey Question

"Please list any additional comments or suggestions you would like to share with us."

"More wheelchair accessible doors. I have a disability with my arm and cannot open all the doors to buildings when I have to hold something with my good arm."

"I have been late to class due to the accessibility of campus and how some of the electronic doors are not working right now."

"It is completely unacceptable that Modern Languages offices, classrooms and labs not be accessible to everybody. Even professors must climb 4 floors to reach their offices."

Why Now?

- **Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act**, also known as Bill 59, was passed in April 2017. In summary, StFX must be fully accessible to everyone by 2030.
- Therefore, we believe that some of our ideas could be implemented towards making StFX fully accessible in the next 10 years.

Our Ideas: Potential Projects

- More ramps on campus
- Improved signage and mapping
- Installing automated swing door operators
- Installing wheelchair lift systems
- Conveyor belt/magic carpet
- Skywalk(s)
- External elevator(s)

Conveyor Belt/Magic Carpet



Swing Door Operators



Our Ideas: Areas of Interest

- Schwartz: entrance/exit on back side & ramp on library side
- Bloomfield first floor entrance: ramp, automated door operator and increase door width
- Inaccessible buildings: Immaculata, Annex, Safety & Security, Service Learning, Cameron Hall, Mackinnon Hall, Somers & Power Hall



Schwartz/Library



Annex & Bloomfield

Our Needs



Collaboration with
StFX University



Open lines of
communication with the
community



Maps of campus and
buildings

Timeline

February 7th	Identify main issues: meet with StFX and L'Arche
February 14th	Research possible solutions and brainstorm ideas
February 28th	Refine ideas using civil and industrial techniques, such as urban planning and structural analysis
March 6th	Create actual designs and conduct cost and safety analysis
March 13th	Decide on final designs
March 20th	Create output files such as autocad and report draft
March 27th	Complete website
March 31st	Final report due

Questions?



Sources

- <https://www2.mystfx.ca/facilities-management/campus-planning>
- <https://accessibilitycanada.ca/legislation/nova-scotia/>
- <https://www.dal.ca/news/2018/11/30/taking-action-on-accessibility.html>