

To Whom it May Concern,

The Safety Codes Council is a statutory corporation that formulates and oversees the development and administration of safety codes and standards throughout the province. Working with its partners in government, labour, industry and education, the Safety Codes Council provides innovative, effective, and efficient public safety programs to industry and communities. Through the work of subject-matter specific sub-councils, recommendations are made to the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding codes and standards to which the Safety Codes Act applies.

The Barrier Free Sub-Council has representatives from various stakeholders, including advocate organizations representing members with disabilities, the design industry, enforcement officials, and the education and training sector. Our sub-council is aware that the barrier free design requirements in the building code are sometimes missed at the design, plans review, construction, and/or inspection phase.

The education and training representative on our sub-council, emeritus professor and architect Tang Lee, researched the current state of barrier free design education in Alberta and found that there are a number of educational institutions in Alberta that teach architecture, technology, landscape architecture, interior design and planning. We believe there is opportunity to further the knowledge of students in these design disciplines with regards to barrier free design.

The Barrier Free Sub-Council wishes to bring awareness to the importance of barrier free design instruction in Alberta design schools. We believe it is important for students to receive instruction on this topic not only because barrier free requirements exist within the building code, but also because it can help provide a safe and accessible environment for all Albertans, regardless of ability.

As you are the head of a program that teaches the above design disciplines, we respectfully encourage you to ensure barrier free design is incorporated into your curriculum.

The *Barrier Free Design Guide 2017* is a document published by the Safety Codes Council that contains the barrier free design requirements in the building code as well as recommended best practices in barrier free design and universal design. The Guide is developed by the Barrier Free Sub-Council and the Provincial Barrier Free Administrator. We encourage you to consider this resource in your curriculum planning and request that you make your students aware of it.

The Guide is available electronically, free of charge, at:

[http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/Public/Documents/Barrier-Free-Design-Guide\\_WEB-Aug2019.pdf](http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/Public/Documents/Barrier-Free-Design-Guide_WEB-Aug2019.pdf)

We would also be happy to provide a complimentary hard copy for your library upon request.

Prof. Lee has kindly offered to share an assignment that has been very successful in stimulating students' understanding of barrier free design. Please don't hesitate to contact him if you would like to make use of this resource.

The Safety Codes Council also offers a training course, *Course 100125: Building, Accessibility, Energy Conservation & Building Envelope for Part 9 SCOs, ABC 2014*, which includes content regarding the barrier free design requirements within the building code. It is designed for safety codes officers but available for anyone to take. More information is available through [Council Connect](#).

We hope you find this information useful. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Karen Muir, Architect (AAA), Chair  
Barrier-Free Sub-Council, Safety Codes Council

cc: Prof. Tang Lee