



# **Mobility not Disability**



**An Awareness Guide to Accessibility  
for  
Persons with Physical Challenges**

## **FORWARD**

**The City of Charlottetown is pleased to present this Awareness Guide to Accessibility which marks a step forward in the shared efforts of the City and members of the Civic Advisory Board for Persons with Disabilities.**

**Members of the Civic Advisory Board articulated a desire to enhance accessibility to public buildings for members of our community who are aging and those who are temporarily and/or permanently disabled. Charlottetown City Council recognizes that physical barriers in the environment (whether in public facilities or on our City streets) cause limitations to a large number of our citizens. Physical barriers impact our senior population, parents with young children and people with physical and intellectual disabilities. For example, automatic doors on public buildings are not only an asset to citizens with physical disabilities, they are an asset to our City shoppers, to mothers pushing strollers and to those people who physically cannot manipulate manual doors. Accessible physical environments benefit everyone enabling ALL citizens to be less restricted and more independent.**

**The Awareness Guide outlines minimum standards of the National Building Code of Canada. The City of Charlottetown encourages developers and contractors to incorporate the principles of Barrier Free Design in all construction, and wherever possible, exceed the recommended standards. In this way the City of Charlottetown will be proactive in its attempt to meet the every changing needs of our residents.**

**Sincerely,**

**Clifford Lee  
Mayor  
City of Charlottetown**

## **Are You Aware ?**

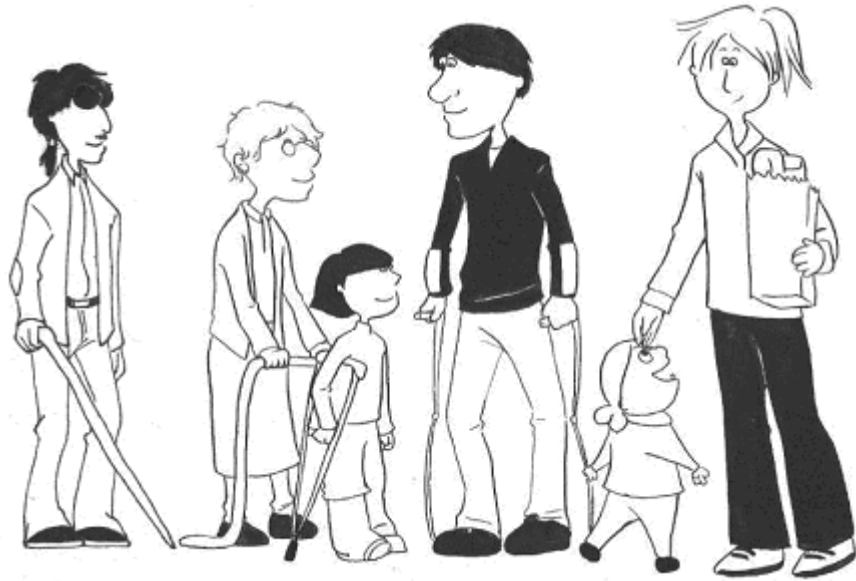
**According to Stats Can statistics, the population of PEI (2001) is approximately 135,290 persons**

- **That persons with physical challenges constitutes 14.3% (or 19,346) of the population**
- **That the population consists of 18,052 Seniors age 65 and over, some of which have age related impediments to mobility**
- **That in any given year 500 or more individuals suffer from fall related injuries resulting in short or long term disability**
- **There is an unrecorded number of individuals who are temporarily challenged for varying reasons be it through injury, illness, or other factors**

## **Are You Aware ?**

- **People with Physical Challenges can be anyone who encounters a Barrier to Mobility**
- **Barriers to Mobility affects all ages and genders**
- **A person who is afflicted with only a temporary disability can face a physical challenge if access to a facility is impaired**

**Think Mobility!  
Before you Renovate or Build**



## **Are You Aware ?**

**People with physical challenges represent a large portion of the overall population and represent a significant number of potential clients and consumers**

- **That barriers to accessibility for this segment of the population results in untold lost revenue to the retailer**
- **That accessibility to and throughout your particular Residential, Commercial or Institutional Complex may be one of these barriers**
- **People with physical challenges tend to feel like second class citizens when buildings are not accessible**

## Disabled



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## Enabled



## **Are You Aware ?**

**Barriers to persons with physical challenges may exist outside and inside your establishment**

- **These barriers may consist of sandwich board signs, garbage bins, planters, tables and chairs and changes in sidewalk levels or curbs etc.**
- **Such barriers can affect a wide range of physical impairments such as mobility, visual and/or hearing impairment, etc.**
- **Your staff may not be properly trained in recognizing barriers or knowledgeable in assisting physically challenged individuals when needed**

**Disabled**



**Enabled**

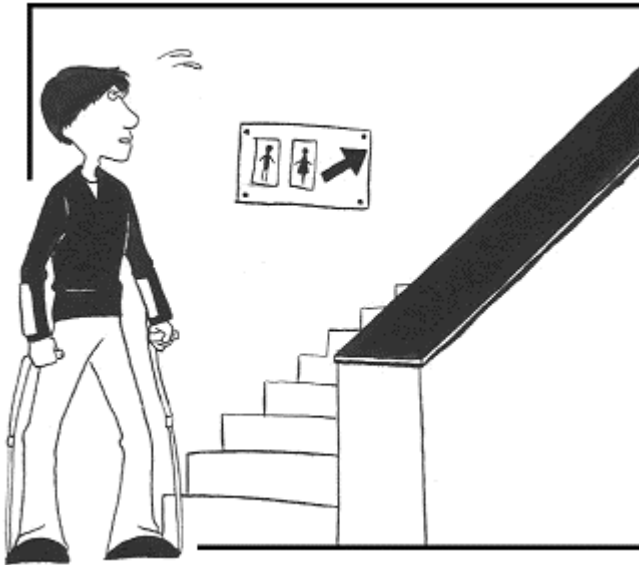


## **Are You Aware ?**

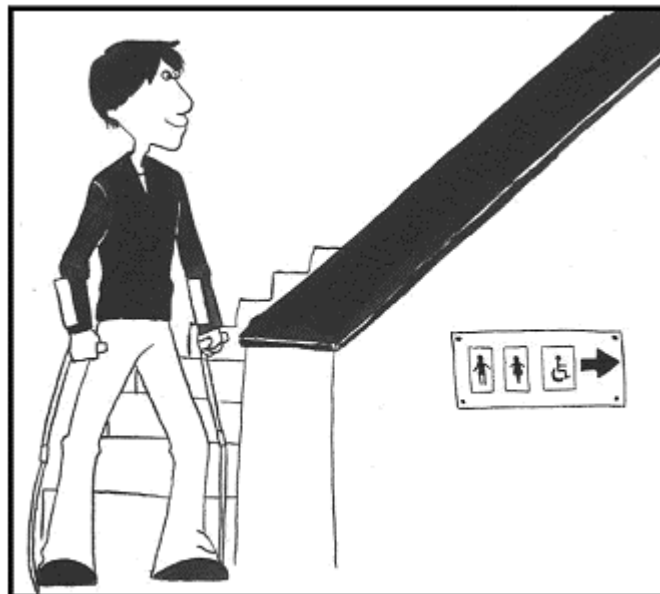
### **Accessibility does not end at the entrance door**

- **Accessibility should be provided to areas that serve the public throughout the ground floor level**
- **Accessibility should be provided to all facilities such as washrooms, etc. that serve the public and which are located on levels above or below the ground floor**
- **Isle-ways and corridors within a facility may be too narrow to allow the passage of wheelchairs or power carts**
- **Automatic door openers makes it much easier for the physically challenged to gain entrance to facilities**
- **Washrooms should be large enough to allow a wheelchair to turn freely**
- **Washroom Fixtures should be placed at a height that is easily accessible**
- **Reception Counters should be at a height that is convenient to anyone in a wheelchair**

## Disabled



## Enabled



## **Are You Aware ?**

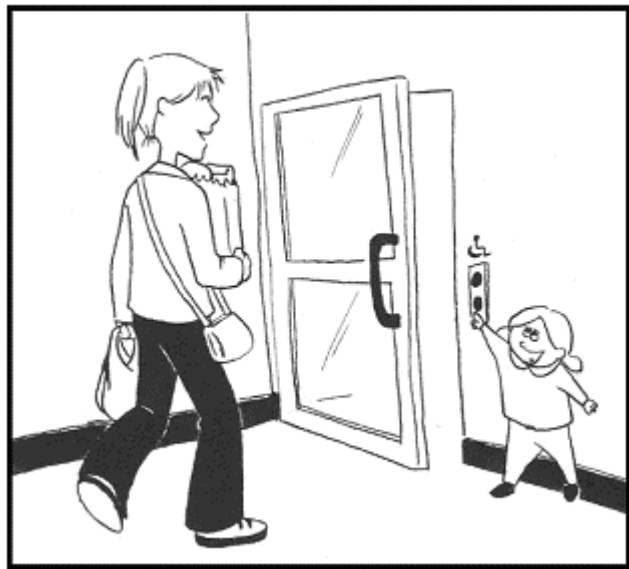
**Your residential or commercial/institutional complex can be made more user friendly for persons with physical challenges with only slight modifications and at most times with little cost, simply by:**

- **Widening door frames to 3 ft for wheelchair access**
- **Installing lever type handles in place of knobs**
- **Removing thresholds to eliminate a tripping hazard**
- **Providing accessible bathroom facilities at the entry level**
- **Reinforcing bathroom walls so that fixtures can be mounted more securely**
- **Lowering reception and work counters**
- **Widening hallways, corridors and isle-ways**
- **Providing handrails at strategic locations**

**Disabled**



**Enabled**



## **Are You Aware ?**

**The National Building Code of Canada’s “ Barrier Free Design Section” contains a set of minimum standards only, which does not always meet the needs of Persons with Physical Challenges**

- **Appendix “A” following, identifies some of those minimum Code Standards in construction**
- **It is recommended that where possible minimum Code Standards be exceeded**

### **Index to Appendix “A”**

**Page 1: Typical Ramp Details**

**Page 2: Typical Water Closet & Accessory Layout**

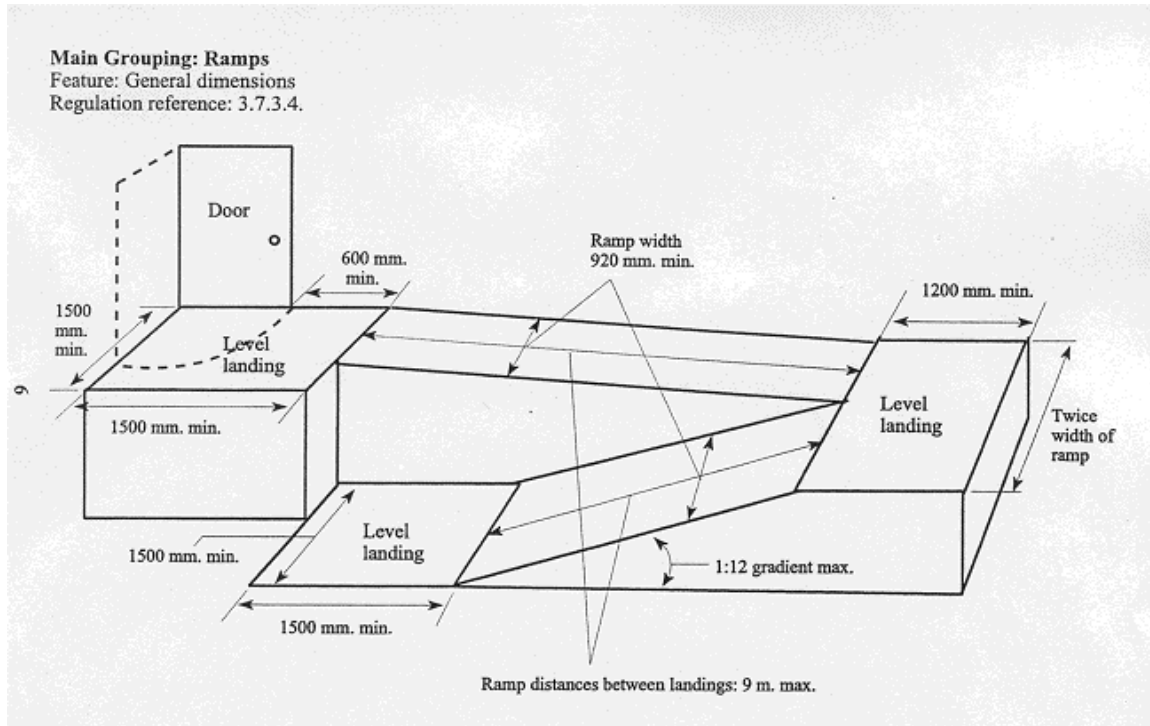
**Page 3: Typical Washroom Layouts**

**Page 4: Typical Shower, Lavatory & Fixture Layout**

**Page 5: Typical Handrail Layout**

**Page 6: Interior Routes & Exterior Walk Dimensions**

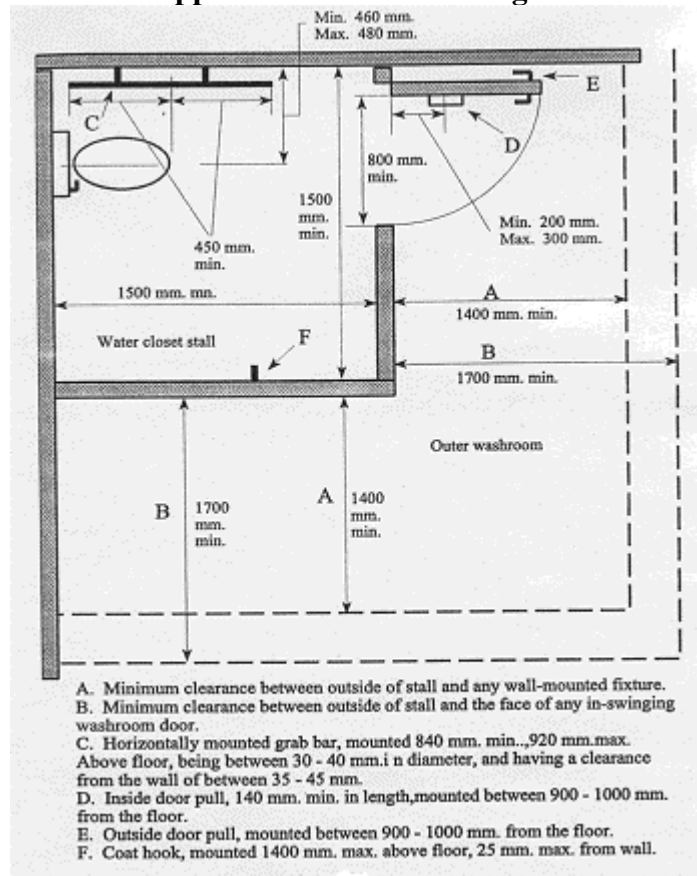
**Page 7: Typical Vestibule Layout**



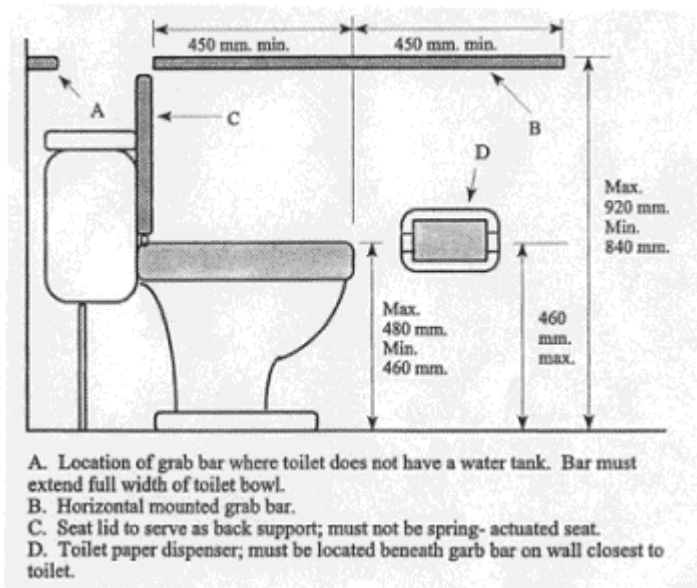
## Typical Ramp

### Notes:

- Ramp to have Non-Slip Surface
- Handrails required both sides of Ramp and Landings
- Guard required around open side of Ramp and Landings when difference in elevation exceeds 600mm
- Ramp Surface and Railings and Guards must be installed to National Building Code Standards

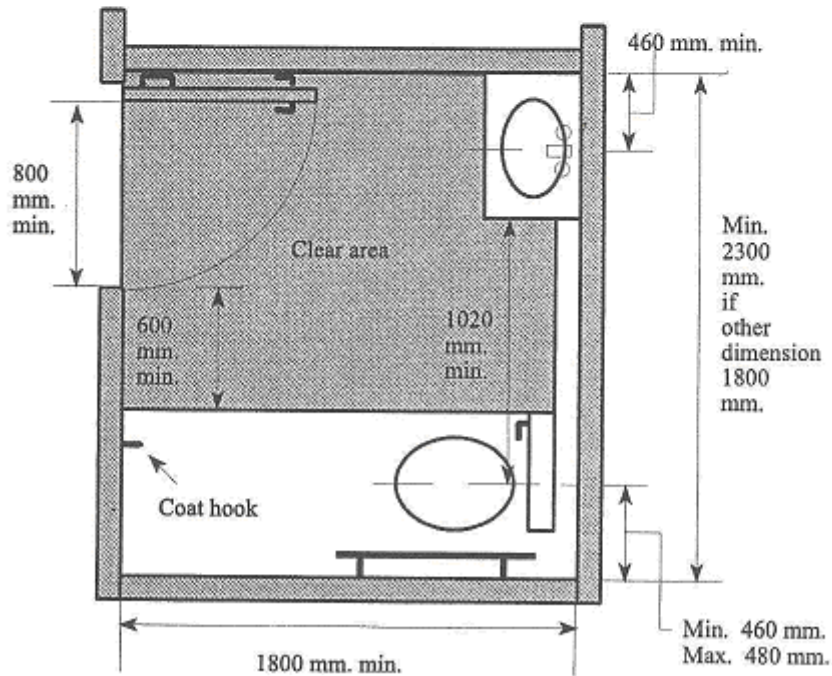
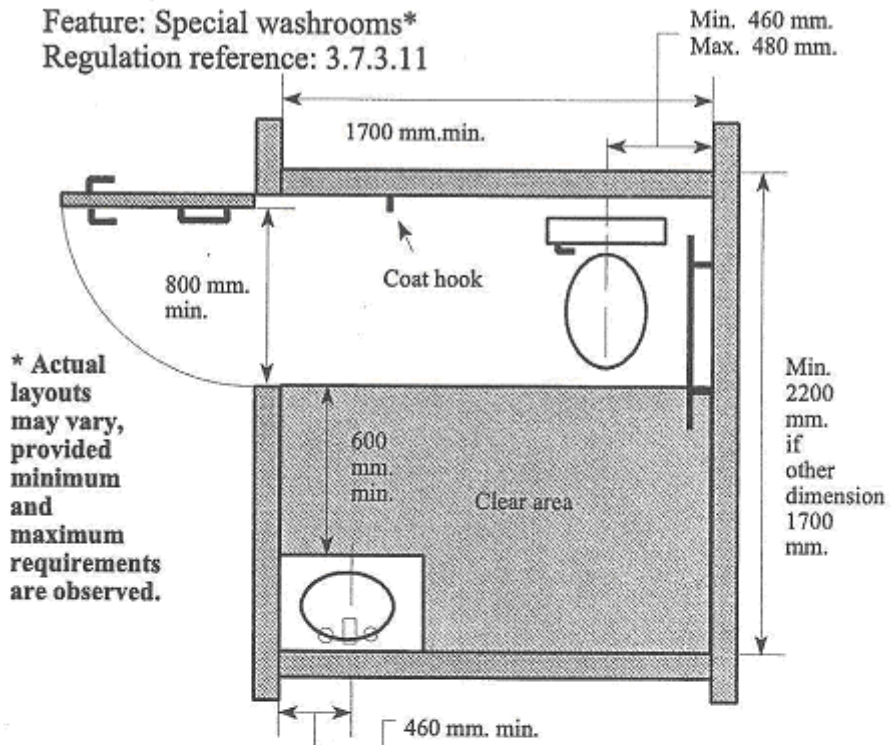


### Typical Washroom Fixture & Accessory Layout

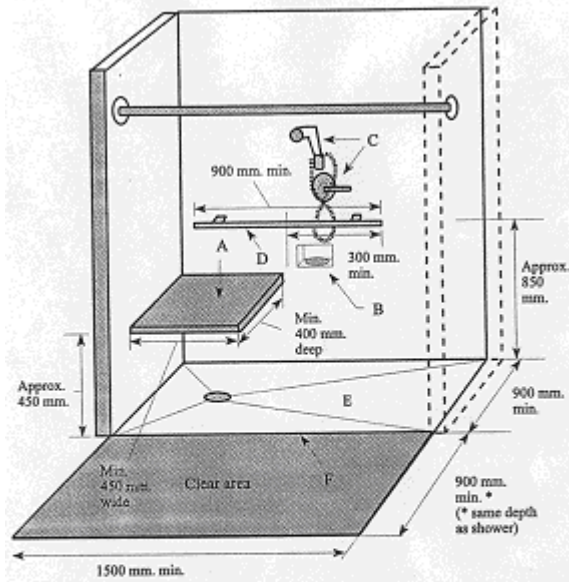


### Typical Water Closet & Accessory Layout

Feature: Special washrooms\*  
Regulation reference: 3.7.3.11

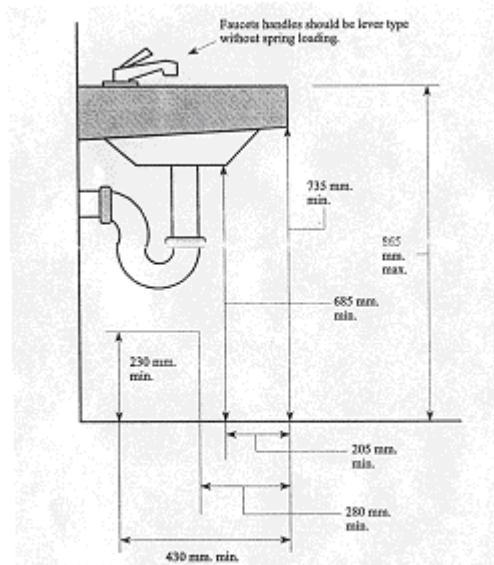


Typical Washroom Layouts



- A. Hinged seat (not spring-loaded) or fixed seat.
- B. Recessed soap holder which can be reached from seated position.
- C. Pressure-equalizing or thermostatic mixing valve controlled by lever or other device operable with a closed fist from the seated position; equipped with hand-held shower head with min. of 1500 mm. of flexible hose located that it can be reached from the seated position and equipped with a support so that it can operate as a fixed shower head.
- D. Horizontally-mounted grab bar, located on opposite wall from shower entrance.
- E. Slip-resistant floor surface.
- F. Bevelled threshold not more than 13 mm. higher than finished floor.

**Typical Shower \* Fixture Layout**



Where pipes may pose a burn hazard, they should be insulated.

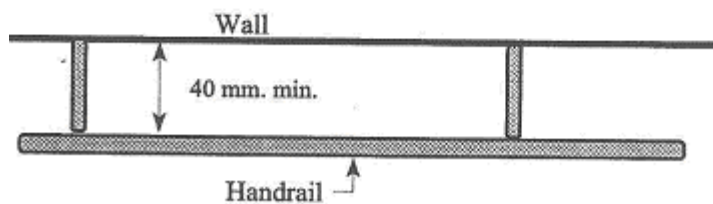
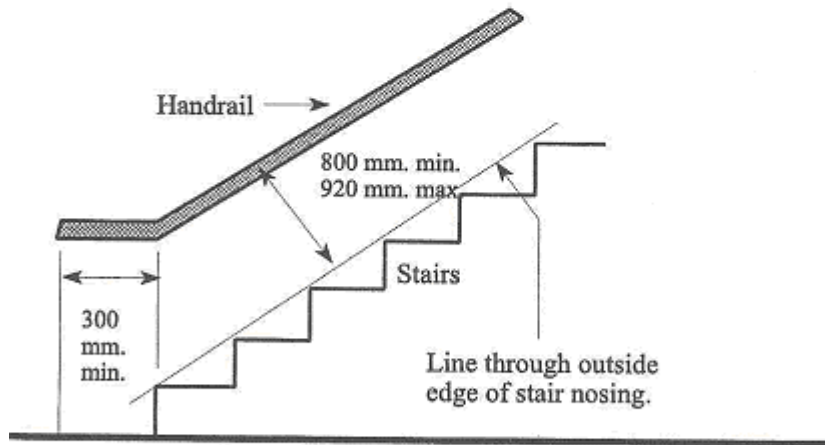
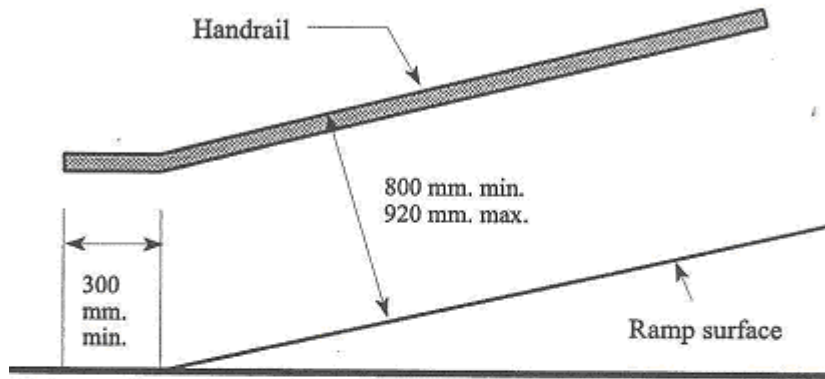
Soap and towel dispensers must be located a max. of 1200 mm. above the floor, and must be in an area accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

**Typical Lavatory**

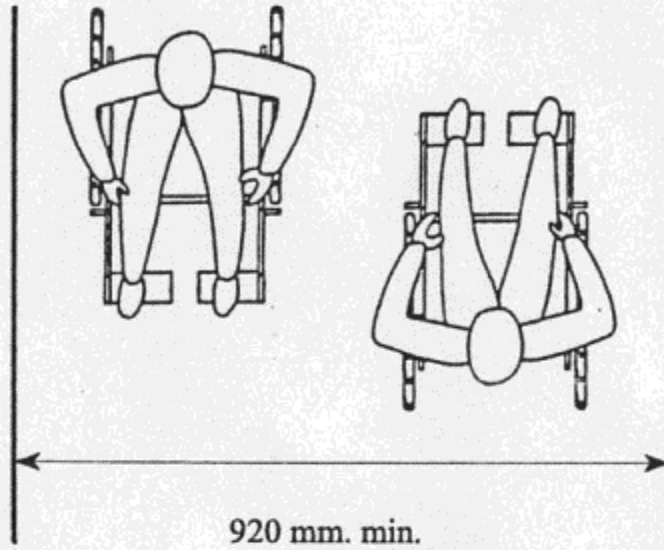
Feature: Height of railings from ramp or stair surfaces  
Regulation reference: 3.4.6.4.(4)

**\*\* Note:**

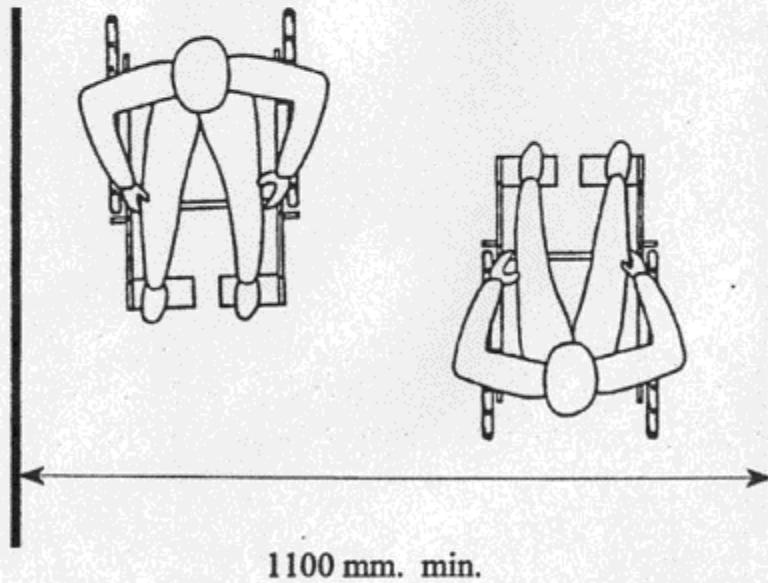
Handrails must be terminated in a manner which will not obstruct pedestrian travel or create a hazard.



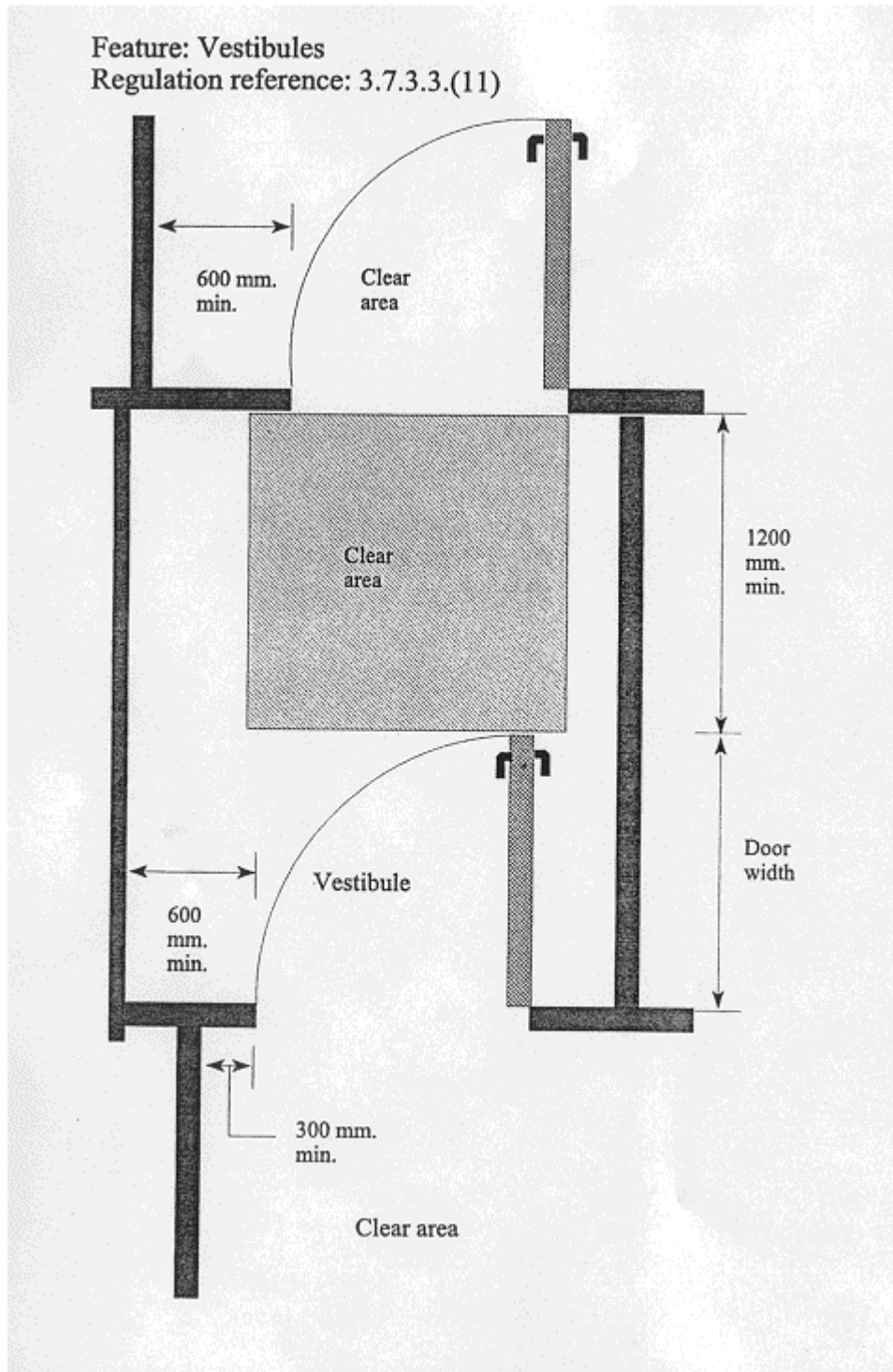
**Typical Handrail Layout**



Interior routes



Exterior walks



Typical Vestibule

## **Other Important Considerations**

- **Access Ramps should be in close proximity to business entrances and not remotely located**
- **Disabled Parking areas should be in close proximity to access ramps**
- **All stairways, interior and exterior entrances, ramps, etc. should be well lighted**
- **In designing access for the Physically Challenged, special consideration should be given to the increasing use of powered Chairs and Scooters, which require greater clearances and turning radii**

## **Are You Aware ?**

- **The City of Charlottetown enforces the National Building Code of Canada's "Barrier Free Design" requirements which governs accessibility**
- **All new construction and renovations in the City are subject to the requirements of the National Building Code**
- **Information on the National Building Code as well as other Municipal Bylaws may be obtained from the Planning Department of City Hall, 199 Queen Street Charlottetown, Tel: 566-5548**

**This Brochure is Sponsored by**  
**the City of Charlottetown**  
**Civic Advisory Board**  
**for Persons with Disabilities**

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