

ACCESSIBILITY BENEFITS EVERYONE



There are many economic benefits generated by investing in accessibility. Accessibility ensures that everyone can navigate and benefit from a space, services or programs, regardless of their physical abilities, age, or background. More than just having ramps and elevators, it's creating community where everyone can participate fully.

According to the latest Canadian Survey on Disability:

- » **8 million Canadians** are impacted daily by one or more disabilities.
- » That's 27% of people aged 15 or older.

In Wood Buffalo, this could mean more than **28,000 residents** are living with disability as of 2022.

*2017-2022 Canadian Survey on Disability, Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/231201/dq231201b-eng.htm>

Other economic benefits of accessibility include:

- » **Increased productivity** and **larger labour forces**.
- » **Economic spillovers** related to construction.
- » **Lower lifecycle building construction costs** by integrating accessibility from the start, rather than having to retrofit buildings.
- » **Increased consumer spending** when individuals with disabilities can access more businesses.
- » **Reduced healthcare costs**, related to the reduction of physical inactivity and social isolation.

72% of persons with disabilities report facing barriers accessing indoor and outdoor public spaces because of the built environment. This prevents their full participation in the economy and the community.

Accessibility is **key to age-friendly communities**, enabling residents to continue living, working, and playing in their community. This also generates economic benefits as a result.

The **return of investment** for accessibility is estimated to be between **\$252 to more than \$422 billion** (roughly 13-22% of Canada's GDP).

*Institute for Work and Health, 2021
<https://www.iwh.on.ca/plain-language-summaries/economic-benefits-of-fully-accessible-and-inclusive-canada#:~:text=If%20Canada%20were%20a%20fully,domestic%20product%20in%20that%20year>