

## Vancouver College Three-Year Accessibility Plan 2024-2027

### **Overview:**

This Accessibility Plan outlines the measures Vancouver College will take to remove and prevent barriers and to promote inclusion for individuals with disabilities in our school community. The plan is based on the Accessibility Principles of Adaptability, Collaboration, Diversity, Inclusion, Self-Determination, and Universal Design, as set out in the Accessible B.C. Act.

### **Accessibility Priorities:**

Based on a full staff assessment and discussions, plus administrative overview, Vancouver College has identified the following areas as priorities for improving accessibility in the school community.

### **Overview of the Objectives for the 2024-2027 Plan**

**1. Physical Environment** (These environmental barriers prevent access for people with disabilities.)

- **Music classes access** - currently, students taking any music courses in Grades 7-12 need to climb one or two staircases to attend classes. The School is committed to rectifying this situation through the addition of an elevator to this part of the campus or the complete replacement of this facility with a code-compliant, fully accessible version.
- **Field bleacher access** - during athletic events or emergency evacuations, the field bleachers are used by students and other members of our community. The School will investigate options to make this area more accessible to people with disabilities, likely from the west side.
- **Senior School Braille signage** - Manrell Hall (2018) and Lannon Hall (2020) have Braille signage to assist visually impaired persons to fully access them. Neither Rice Hall nor Holler in the Senior School have this useful addition to their signage throughout. The School will investigate enhancing its signage in this regard.

**2. Attitudinal/Awareness** (A barrier that arises from the attitudes of staff, students, and the school community, including discriminatory behaviours and a lack of disability awareness.)

- **Awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the role of everyone in working with neurodivergent members of our community** - currently, there is an expectation that neurodivergent students are supported chiefly through the Learning Centre and special education professionals. The School is committed to shifting this approach so that everyone is more aware of, more educated about, and more capable of being part of the support necessary to ensure these valuable members of our community thrive.
- **Increased staff and student mental health awareness and training** - though recently, with the opening of our Wellness Centre and through the VC Wellness Club, there is less stigma around mental health, we could do more to increase awareness and support for people suffering from mental health challenges. One gap is in mental health first aid, and we will look at training appropriate staff in this valuable skill.
- **Openness to admission of students with disabilities** - in the past, Vancouver College has identified itself as a traditional school poorly equipped to support students or staff with disabilities. The School is now committed to adjust this lens in terms of admissions and hiring practices, and to be open to having people with disabilities join our community. This will require redoing some upgrades in Rice and Holler.

### **3. Technology (Barriers resulting from computers, telephones, etc., including the lack of assistive technologies.)**

- **Mics and sound fields for more teachers & classrooms** - some classrooms and some teachers employ sound fields and microphones if they teach students with hearing impairments. The School will explore the possibility of increasing and this normalizing the usage of these technologies.

#### **How to Give Us Feedback**

Vancouver College will post this Three-Year Accessibility Plan on the school's website. Accessible formats of the plan will be made available upon request. Questions, comments, or feedback regarding the Accessibility Plan may be directed to: [principal@vancouvercollege.ca](mailto:principal@vancouvercollege.ca)