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**From:** David Lepofsky [mailto:david.lepofsky@gmail.com]

**Sent:** May 3, 2019 11:44 AM

**To:** Charbonneau, Daniel <Daniel.Charbonneau@sen.parl.gc.ca>

**Subject:** Please circulate to all members of the Standing Committee re Bill C-81

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance

**Proposed Observations for the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs to Attach to Bill C-81**

May 3, 2019

We respectfully propose that the following observations be attached to Bill C-81:

1. Because the bill's centerpiece is the enactment and enforcement of accessibility standards as enforceable regulations but the bill does not require any of those regulations to ever be enacted, and because the bill gives the Federal Government a range of powers that it may use but does for the most part not provide that the Government must use those powers, the Committee recommends that
	1. the Federal Government should report back to the Senate in one year on its action to date, its plans and time lines for enacting accessibility standards regulations and for deploying its other discretionary powers under the bill, and
	2. within five years after the bill comes into effect, at least one regulation should be enacted that sets enforceable accessibility standards in each of the areas in section 5, namely employment, the built environment, information and communication technologies, communication, procurement of goods, services and facilities, the design and delivery of programs and services, transportation and any other areas that are designated by regulations under the bill.
2. Because of concerns expressed by the disability community about the bill splintering its implementation and enforcement, the Committee recommends that:
3. the Federal Government should report to the Senate in one year on the effectiveness and impact of splintering the bill's implementation and enforcement among four federal agencies,

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for further study by the Senate, and

1. within six months, the Canadian Transportation Agency, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, and the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board should establish policies, practices and procedures for expeditiously receiving, investigating, considering and deciding upon complaints under this Act which are the same as or as reasonably close as possible to, those set out for the Accessibility Commissioner in sections 94 to 110 of the bill.
2. Since the Federal Government spends billions of dollars of the public's money on procurement of goods, services and facilities, on new infrastructure projects, and on business development loans and grants, the Federal Government should establish, implement, monitor and publicly report on policies to effectively ensure that public money is never used to create or perpetuate disability barriers and should report to the Senate within one year on its actions in this regard and the results achieved.

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