



## Briefing Note 6: Bill C-81 – *Accessible Canada Act*

### Federal Spending Power

#### **How does Bill C-81 currently address this issue?**

Bill C-81 does not require the Government of Canada to ensure that federal public money is never spent or used to create or perpetuate barriers to accessibility.

#### **Why is this concerning?**

The Government of Canada spends federal public money on goods, services, infrastructure, loans, grants and transfer payments. This federal spending can be leveraged to promote accessibility across Canada by requiring recipients of federal public money to not perpetuate existing barriers or create new ones. Practically, this would strengthen the potential for the Bill to achieve its purpose of a barrier-free Canada.

#### **How should Bill C-81 be changed?**

- It must require the Government of Canada, when it spends federal public money, to ensure that the money is not used to create or perpetuate barriers to accessibility.
- It must require federal government officials to consider the impact on accessibility when making decisions which involve spending money.

#### **Additional Advocacy Points:**

We are asking Senators to support changes to the Bill to uphold the principle that no public money should be spent in a way that will maintain existing barriers or create new ones. This includes the Government of Canada spending, granting, lending or disbursing federal public money to a third party.