



VILLAGE OF  
**VALEMOUNT**

*Let the mountains move you*

**\*\*\* Press Release \*\*\***

August 30, 2021

The Village of Valemount was pleased to welcome representatives from around the province, including Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, AccessBC, UNBC School of Planning and Sustainability, and other accessibility branches of BC regional tourism sectors, as they embarked on the Sustainable Access Inclusion Mapping Tour. Valemount was the first stop on this two-year program. The focus of this initiative is to provide an assessment of tourism facilities and participating local businesses and their current accessibility options. This information will be used to populate the AccessNow app, which helps people plan their visit to destinations and understand the extent of accessibility options available to them.

Over the course of the week of August 23 through 26, Council, Tourism Valemount, and Village Staff were joined by MLA Bond while taking part in the assessment of facilities, amenities and businesses. This was an excellent opportunity to learn and understand how to view current facilities through an accessibility lens and how to include accessibility features as a matter of routine when considering new builds and upgrades to existing facilities.

*"It is truly exciting to be part of a pilot that improves upon mobile inclusivity across our community. We are grateful for the connections through MLA Shirley Bond, UNBC, AccessBC, and the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association. The AccessNow app is just one more way Valemount is inviting to all."*

Owen Torgerson, Mayor of Valemount

*"I am very proud that Valemount is the first community that agreed to participate in the mapping project. By understanding how to enhance visitor experiences and increase accessibility awareness, I am confident that Valemount will become even more inclusive and accessible. I learned a lot during the time spent with the team on the ground and will continue to be an advocate for increased accessibility and opportunity in our region and beyond."*

Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George – Valemount

For more information please contact:  
Wayne Robinson, CAO  
Village of Valemount  
cao@valemount.ca

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