Bank of Canada's Accessible Bank Notes — Co-Designed Tactile Dots, Evaluated by Users and Phasing Out Its Reader Device

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Canada

Quality score: 92/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Canada's central bank put a raised six-dot tactile code and large high-contrast numerals on its notes after consulting about 300 blind and low-vision people. A University of Waterloo evaluation found real but modest gains, and the bank later dropped its reader device.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	3/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-24

Bank of Canada (with CNIB and Canadian Council of the Blind) — accessed 2026-11-24

Bank of Canada — Resources for the blind and partially sighted — accessed 2026-11-24

Bank of Canada Review (Winter 2009–10) — Making Bank Notes Accessible (Samuel) — accessed 2026-11-24

CNIB — Bank note reader program and recall — accessed 2026-11-24

IDEAS/RePEc record of the Bank of Canada Review article — accessed 2026-11-24

Cite this — Evidoria. *Bank of Canada's Accessible Bank Notes — Co-Designed Tactile Dots, Evaluated by Users and Phasing Out Its Reader Device*. Persistent ID: c9335084-5ce3-45d1-81bf-97e56b6a7864.