

MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2013

Forward

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 requires the Council of every municipality to prepare each year an Accessibility Plan which addresses the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in the municipality's by-laws, and in its policies, programs, practices and services.

The 2013 report describes the measures the Municipality has taken in previous years and those proposed for subsequent years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Municipality of Tweed.

Council Commitment

The Council of the Municipality of Tweed is committed to:

- i. the continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for people with disabilities;
- ii. the provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.

The Municipality of Tweed Accessibility Plan will enable Council to meet these commitments.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the Accessibility Plan is to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities in the Municipality's by-laws and in its policies, programs, practices and services. The plan describes the measures undertaken in previous years and those proposed for subsequent years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Municipality of Tweed, including staff.

The objectives of the Accessibility Plan are as follows:

- i. Review and describe the measures undertaken in previous years to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- ii. List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services the Municipality will review each year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
- iii. Describe the measures to be undertaken in upcoming years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- iv. Describe how the Accessibility Plan will be made available to the public.

Municipal Facilities

The following municipal facilities are used by staff and members of the public:

- i. Municipal building including municipal offices and Council Chambers
- ii. Public library
- iii. Firehall
- iv. Arena;
- v. Park, including washroom facility and playground equipment
- vi. Outdoor swimming pool / changeroom facility
- vii. Four community halls, one in the Village of Tweed and one each in three hamlets
- viii. Four public works buildings
- viii. Waste disposal site and recycling depot.

Previous Initiatives

The following initiatives were undertaken by the Municipality of Tweed in previous years to address and improve barriers to people with disabilities:

Municipal Building

- redesign of customer service area and counter in main reception, including wheelchair access counter
- installation of signage on outside of building
- designation of handicapped parking space in parking lot

Municipal Website

- improvements to site for easier access to services

Arena

- renovations to entrance, lobby, dressing rooms and washrooms for barrier free access
- risers on steps in spectator area
- front entrance ramp

Community Halls

- new wheelchair ramps and automatic doors at four community halls
- barrier free washrooms

Streets and Sidewalks

- new traffic signals at two main intersections with audio signals for pedestrians
- new handicapped parking spaces identified in traffic and parking by-law
- sidewalk replacements

Training

- staff training on Accessible Customer Service policy

Barriers to be Addressed

The following initiatives are suggested for upcoming years.

Municipal Building

- new wheelchair ramp into Council Chambers
- install automatic door to Council Chambers
- microphones and speakers in Council Chambers

Municipal Website

- continue improvements to provide ongoing access to information

Council and staff will continue to review all municipal facilities and services on a regular basis for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing existing and potential barriers. Effort should be made to obtain comments from members of the public.

The 2014 and subsequent years' municipal budgets should include allocations for addressing barriers which are identified.

Review of Process

The Accessibility Plan and process will be reviewed annually to allow Council, staff and the public to monitor the barriers identified and the direction in which the Municipality of Tweed is moving to remove all barriers in accordance with the requirements of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Communication of Accessibility Plan

The Municipality of Tweed Accessibility Plan will be made available on the municipal website and at the municipal office. The Accessibility Plan will be made available in an accessible format on request.