



Accessibility Annual Public Status Update 2019

A Summary of the Municipality of Kincardine's
accomplishments towards inclusion in 2019

Approved: by Resolution

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.
Please contact the Clerk's Department at 519-396-3468 ext. 7111.

Annual Accessibility Plan

As per Part 1, Section 4 (3) (a) of Ontario Regulation 191/11, the Integrated Accessibility Standards, the Municipality of Kincardine must prepare an Annual Public Status Report on the progress of measures taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, including steps taken to comply with this Regulation.

The purpose of this Status Report is to make the public aware of the Municipality of Kincardine's progress made in 2019 with the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan adopted in 2017 to outline the Municipality's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet the requirements under the above noted Regulation.

Annual Accessibility Plan

The Municipality of Kincardine will file its Accessibility Compliance Report in December 2019 with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontarians with Disabilities under the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

The Municipality of Kincardine's Commitment Statement

The Municipality of Kincardine is committed to providing excellent service for both the public and employees by delivering programs and services that are efficient, effective, responsive and accessible. Accessible services meet people's needs while protecting the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. When services are accessible, people can easily navigate into and around buildings and offices, receive information in a format that works for them, and work in an accommodating place.

The Municipality will promote accessibility by ensuring that compliance is met for all regulations made under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, 2005. Timelines for compliance vary. In order to ensure that timelines are met, the Municipality will establish, implement and maintain a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The plan will outline the Municipality's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to people with disabilities.

Catalogue of Issues

The Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee requires that they “Catalogue and prioritize accessibility issues related to existing municipal facilities” and consult with the various municipal departments on their upcoming plans to improve accessibility in our municipality. This task is performed annually by the Committee and compiled into the Catalogue of Issues (attached as Schedule “A”).

Continuous Achievements in Accessibility

- The Municipality focuses on removing barriers which may exist in municipal building and facilities, while ensuring that new buildings, leases and renovations do not create barriers.
- The Municipality adopted the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy GG.3.8 and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy GG.3.9 which outline what the Municipality will do to comply with the Regulations and what customers and employees can expect.
- The Municipality continues to meet and review accessibility initiatives.
- The Municipality continues to comply with the requirements of the Customer Service Standards including the ongoing training of staff, volunteers and third parties who interact on behalf of the Municipality on an ongoing basis.
- Notifying the public of accommodations for job applicants with disabilities in its recruitment process.
- Continue to review customer feedback and take appropriate action.

Highlights of 2019

General Requirements

- Through the Enabling Accessibility Grant improvements were made to the family changeroom at the Davidson Centre and a new pool lift was installed.
- Worked with Kincardine & District Secondary School to complete an additional StopGap Ramp for a local business.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee developed plans for a short video to highlight accessible features throughout the Municipality including the Mobimats, beach wheelchair, accessible washrooms, StopGap Ramps and accessible picnic tables.
- Continued to have consideration for the FADS when reviewing and developing municipal and private projects.
- Updated the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to include a more detailed section on Preventative and Emergency Maintenance of Accessibility Elements.
- Updated the Accessibility Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference.
- Policy GG.1.9 Remuneration, Council & Others was updated to include reimbursement for accessible transportation costs.
- Updates to Electronic Participation section in the Municipality of Kincardine Procedure By-law to reduce the amount of time required to apply.
- Continued to recognize and ensure accessibility is considered with any projects or new initiatives within our facilities and programs, including the possible construction of the Whitney Crawford Community Centre.

Information and Communications

- Ensured documents were available in an accessible format upon request.
- Replaced the existing municipal website and upgraded it to make it WAGG 2.0 Level AA.
- Continued conversion of necessary historic documents to meet new accessibility requirements and continued developing all new documents in accessible formats.
- Ongoing Emergency Planning for people with disabilities.

- Temporary service disruptions in the Municipality were posted on the municipal website.
- Updated Municipality's Procedure By-law No. 2013 - 161 to include electronic participation at committee meetings.
- Creation of a Trails GIS (Geographic Information System) Storybook highlighting accessible features.

Employment

- Accessibility accommodations were available throughout the recruitment process and employment life cycle, as Per Policy GG. 3.9 Integrated Accessibility Standards, including:
 - Job advertisements specify that accommodation is available for job applicants with disabilities.
 - Policy in place for employees returning to work after being away with a disability.
 - Policy in place to enhance workplace emergency responses through individualized emergency response information and assistance as required.
 - Policy in place that takes into account the accessibility needs of employees with disabilities during the performance process.
 - Relevant staff are trained on the Human Rights Code, Integrated Accessibility Standard, and Customer Service Standard as it pertains to persons with disabilities.

Transportation Standards

- Through taxi cab licensing and renewal process the Municipality ensured that taxicabs do not charge a higher fare or additional fee to persons with disabilities; do not charge a fee for mobility assistive devices; and have appropriate information displayed on the rear bumper and business cards available in an accessible format.

Design of Public Spaces

- Mobi Mats were not installed at Station Beach this year due to the high water levels.
- Three new accessible washrooms were constructed at the Marina, Dunsmoor Park and the Soccer Fields.
- Whitney Crawford Community Centre project worked on tender ready drawings that meet FADS.
- Planning of an accessible gate at the Davidson Centre Track for access to the track that will be completed in 2020.
- Review and installation of five concrete bollards at the Medical clinic due to safety concerns
- Review of relocation accessible parking spaces on Lambton Street to in front of 286 Lambton Street and the creation of a new accessible parking space near 316 Lambton Street.
- Stonehaven Park accessible equipment has been installed.
- Review of Bervie Pak playground equipment with accessible features.
- Completed Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant to update the accessible family change room and purchase new accessible pool lift.
- Road and sidewalk improvements completed on Broadway, Connaught Park and MCR projects.
- Trail improvements at Stonehaven Park.
- Regraded and resurfaced foot path at end of Mechanics.
- Removal of Connaught Park Grandstand.
- Paving of Connaught Park Parking Lot.

Customer Service Standards & Training

- Continued to ensure that relevant staff are trained on the Human Rights Code, Integrated Accessibility Standard, and Customer Service Standard as it pertains to persons with disabilities.

Availability of Plan and Status Report

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Annual Accessibility Status Reports can be accessed through the Municipality of Kincardine's website: www.kincardine.ca

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Accessible formats and communication supports available upon request.