



Staff Report

Report number: CLK2019-01-2

Prepared by: Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

File Number: 125 Accessibility

Subject: 2018 Accessibility Annual Status Report

Date: Jan. 14, 2019

0 Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CLK2019-01-2 prepared by Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Background:

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) was established in 2005 to address discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario. The purpose of the *Act* is to develop, implement and enforce accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities in respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures, and premises on or before January 1, 2025.

Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) was created as part of the AODA. These standards are rules that businesses and organizations in Ontario have to follow to identify, remove and prevent barriers so that people with disabilities have more opportunity to participate in everyday life.

The IASR is broken down into five standards:

- General Requirements
- Customer Service
- Information and Communication
- Employment
- Transit
- Design of Public Spaces

At the beginning of 2018, The Township of Huron-Kinloss released its [Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#) in accordance with the AODA and the ISAR. The Plan outlined the Township's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility, which included how phased requirements under the AODA will be met.

Under Section 4(3) of the ISAR an annual status report outlining the progress of measurements taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be prepared and

posted on the Township's website.

Comments:

Customer Service

The Township continues to comply with the requirements of the Customer Service Standards including continuing to train staff and volunteers who interact on behalf of the Township on an on-going basis.

Information and Communication

- Township of Huron-Kinloss Multi-Year Accessibility Plan was updated as per The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) that requires every organization to develop a multi-year plan every five years.
- The new accessible Township of Huron-Kinloss website went live January 2018
- Have Your Say HK was launched as a community engagement platform.
- The 2018 Municipal Elections Accessibility Plan was carried out during the election and posted on the Township website. Election assistance was made available any voters who required assistance and accessible parking spaces with visible signage was provided during the election at the municipal office.

Employment

- All employment opportunities were advertised with the clause that the municipality will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment, selection and assessment process to applicants with disabilities.
- Training as required for the Integrated Accessibility Standards (O.Reg. 191/11) was carried out for all new hires and volunteers.
- Ongoing training for staff on creating accessible documents.

Transit

The Township of Huron-Kinloss is a member of Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART). They are a specialized public transit service providing transportation solutions to the residents of 9 municipalities in Bruce and Grey Counties including: Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Chatsworth, Hanover, Huron Kinloss, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Southgate and West Grey.

Service is provided to residents who cannot because of their physical or mental challenges travel by conventional transit or taxi. These challenges include the required use of crutches, a cane, a walker or wheelchair; visual impairments; cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's and/or developmental challenges. Challenges need not be permanent; they can be temporary and/or seasonal.

Public Spaces

- An accessible public viewing area was built at the Ripley-Huron Community Centre with a push button door to allow for people who use a mobile aid to view sporting events in the stadium.

- Pathways at Lewis Park were updated with cement.
- New 1.5 metre wide sidewalks on Ripley Street, Ripley.
- Tactile plates installed in the sidewalks on the Willoughby Street and Havelock Street intersection in Lucknow that are designed to help the visually impaired determine that they are at an intersection.
- Exterior light added at the Point Clark Community Centre.
- Push button door installed at the Lucknow Library
- Flashing Light installed on Bruce County Road 86 indicating when fire truck are exiting the Lucknow and District Fire Hall.

Moving Forward to a Fully Accessible Ontario 2025

The Township will continue to focus on removing barriers which may exist in our buildings and facilities, while ensuring that new buildings and new renovations do not create any new barriers.

Council, staff and volunteer training will continue 2018. We continually seek for funding opportunities to identify, and remove barriers for person with disabilities.

Staff will continue to keep up to date with webinars and training initiatives on accessibility requirements and standards.

Financial Impact/Budget Implications:

There are no financial impacts at this time.

Alignment to Sustainability Plan Goals and Directions:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being age friendly, by enhancing our mobility and by being accessible for those with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted:

(original signed by)

Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer