



**The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee
Report**

Report Number: 2020-358-Corporate Services
Prepared By: Manon L. Levesque, City Clerk
Meeting Date: November 19, 2020
Subject: The Accessibility Plan and Status Report

Purpose

To update The Accessibility Plan and Status Report.

Recommendation

That MAAC receive The Accessibility Plan and Status Report.

Financial Implications

The cost of projects is covered by the associated Department in their annual budgets.

Background / Discussion

Each year, the Council of the City of Cornwall receives an Accessibility Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan") prepared by the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The Plan addresses the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in the municipality's By-laws and in its policies, programs, practices, services and facilities.

The Plan includes:

- (a) a report on the measures the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities
- (b) the measures in place to ensure that the municipality assesses its proposals for By-laws, policies, programs, practices, services and facilities to determine their effect on accessibility for persons with disabilities
- (c) a list of the By-laws, policies, programs, practices, services and facilities that the municipality will review in the coming year in order to identify barriers to persons with disabilities
- (d) the measures that the municipality intends to take in the coming year(s) to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities

Accessibility Impact

In December 2001, the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) was passed into law. Its purpose is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province.

One of the requirements under the ODA is that Ontario government ministries, municipalities, hospitals, school boards, colleges, universities and public transportation organizations develop annual accessibility plans to make policies, practices, programs, services and buildings more accessible to people with disabilities. The plans must be made available to the public.

In June 2005, the Ontario government took a strong stand on accessibility when it passed the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) into law.

The AODA lays out a comprehensive road map to make Ontario accessible to all people through the development, implementation, and enforcement of new, mandatory accessibility standards for some of the most important aspects of people's lives.

The Corporation of the City of Cornwall supports the right of all persons to enjoy equal opportunity and to participate fully in the life of the municipality including persons with disabilities.



The number of persons with disabilities is expected to increase as the population ages, since the incidence of disability increases with age.

The right of persons with disabilities to equal treatment, without discrimination in accordance with the *Human Rights Code*, is addressed in a number of Ontario statutes and regulations.

The Council of the City of Cornwall is committed to working towards a city in which no new barriers are created, and existing ones are removed.

The City of Cornwall is desirable of demonstrating continued leadership in improving opportunities for persons with disabilities.