

To: Debbie Shields  
City Clerk

May 10, 2017

From: Tim Higgins  
Accessibility Coordinator

Copy: Chief Administrative Officer  
Directors

Subject: Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)  
- 2016 Year End Report and 2017 Proposed Work Plan  
File: A-1410-007-17

---

The Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is pleased to present its 2016 Year End Report and 2017 Proposed Work Plan.

## **2016 Year End Report**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee continued to strive to provide information and recommendations for Council that are proactive to place Pickering at the forefront of accessibility in the Province. The anticipated rapid growth of the City of Pickering has continued to provide an opportunity to create an integrated and inclusive community. The Committee has consulted, collaborated, and provided advice to enhance inclusion and accessibility in the City of Pickering.

Specifically, the Accessibility Advisory Committee achieved the following in 2016:

### **Meetings and Membership**

- Conducted two open competitions attracting highly qualified candidates to fill vacant Committee posts to maintain the Committee at its full complement of 10 members.
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee held 8 regular meetings normally on the second Wednesday of each month.
- In place of the November 9<sup>th</sup> AAC meeting, members attended the public meeting on development of Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park to provide input.

### **Support for Funding Submissions and Award Nominations**

The AAC supported the following grant submissions:

- Canada 150 grant submission for accessibility renovations of the City Hall Council Chambers, foyer and washrooms.
- Canada 150 grant submission for the 2017 Youth Forum: A Confederation Journey (1867-2067).

- Canada 150 grant submission for accessibility renovations at Dr. Tomlinson Community Centre in Claremont.
- Pickering Rouge Canoe Club grant submission for accessible development of the Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park.
- Pickering Soccer Club grant submission to provide accessibility training for recreational professionals.

The AAC supported the following award nominations:

- Nomination for the David C. Onley Leadership in Accessibility Award with respect to the recently completed Delaney Arena accessibility enhancements
- Three Civic Awards nominations for accessibility. During the Civic Awards ceremony on May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Access Award was presented to two of these nominees – the Pickering Soccer Club and Dentistry on Liverpool.
- In an awards ceremony held at Queen's Park on June 1, 2016, the Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) accepted the 2016 D.C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility on behalf of the partnership comprised of DRPS, the City of Pickering, the Campbell Children's School, the Grandview Children's Centre and the March of Dimes.

### **Awareness Activities**

- Presented 2015 accessibility accomplishments and 2016 plan to City Council identifying priorities for the new year. This presentation provided an opportunity for an exchange of information and ideas on the status of Accessibility within the community and how it may be improved for the benefit of all of the City's residents.
- AAC members attended various City events such as the Seniors Active Living Fair, Your City/ArtFest, Pickering 101, RibFest, Canada Day, and the Durham Regional Police Children's Games to profile the City's accessibility accomplishments, raise awareness of accessibility issues within the community, and consult with the public on accessibility.
- Developed activities and displays to engage and involve members of the public; for example, updated and published three accessibility brochures:
  - "Accessibility for Residential Developers" - for developers and builders to encourage creation of accessible homes and developments within the City of Pickering.
  - "Accessible Pickering - Working Together to Ensure Access for All".
  - "Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee".
- Provided accessibility updates to the City's website.
- Developed activities and displays to engage and involve members of the public; for example, a children's train at Canada Day profiled the new network of accessible pathways at Kinsmen Park.
- Held first Disability Tax Clinic in April 2016, in partnership with the Pickering Public Library. The successful event is planned to continue as an annual event.

## Policies, Standards and Implementation

- Monitored the progress of the proposed new accessible parking by-law. Participated in and helped shape the design of the public consultation process. Provided leadership, advice, and support to the consultation on the new accessible parking by-law and reviewed the analysis of the consultation feedback, as well as the new draft by-law.
- Reviewed new standard operating procedures, checklists and staff training program prepared by City staff to ensure compliance with the Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment. The checklists were designed to go beyond AODA requirements to integrate other relevant standards such as those from CSA, and to recognize best (successful) practices.
- Reviewed City's new standard operating procedures with respect to recreation programs.
- Provided advice on Canada Day planning with respect to:
  - accessibility enhancements to the new Kinsmen Park pathway system
  - temporary accessible parking
  - accessible bus routes
  - accessible washrooms
- Provided advice on park development project for a splash pad in Amberlea Park.
- Reviewed plans and toured major City renovation projects such as Delaney Arena and Council Chambers to provide timely accessibility advice.
- Conducted regular informal audits of City facilities to provide recommendations for improved accessibility and compliance with standards; for example, curb cuts, special event accessible parking, and washrooms.
- Participated in the OMSSA, Promoting a Culture of Accessibility and Inclusion Conference, on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Toronto Chelsea Hotel.
- Reviewed implications of partial repeal of *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA).
- Identified and documented opportunities for accessibility improvement with respect to curbs, sidewalks and tactile plate installation.
- Identified opportunities to improve accessible taxi-cab compliance, safety and cleanliness.
- Reviewed the City's response to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (the Regulator) inquiry with respect to the City's 5 year plan for accessibility and requesting evidence to confirm Pickering's AODA compliance.
- Reviewed correspondence with respect to a need for closed captioning of Council meetings across Durham Region.
- Reviewed an outline of plans for the Seaton development with respect to accessibility.
- Reviewed an overview of the new accessibility amendments to Ontario's Building Code as of January 2015.
- Reviewed City's tactile warning plate standards.
- Reviewed draft standards to ensure the successful integration of applicants with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate effectively in recreational programs, and to enable staff to determine reasonable accommodations.

- Reviewed Accessible Customer Service Standard changes.
- Monitored new staff and volunteer training process.
- Investigated accessibility innovations for potential use in Pickering; for example, “PingStreet” and “Access Now” apps; and, TTY alternatives.

## **Collaboration**

- AAC monitored Regional AAC minutes and attended Regional and Provincial learning and networking opportunities; for example, Metrolinx consultation, ONAP conferences, Durham Region Accessibility forums, etc.
- AAC met jointly with Pickering’s Accessibility Core Staff Team to team-build.
- Informed City discussions regarding the creation of a centre of excellence in waterfront accessibility at Rotary Frenchman’s Bay West Park.
- Worked to develop a robust partnership for accessibility training/education with the Pickering Soccer Club to help engage families to actively participate.
- Identified opportunities for more harmonious communication and collaboration among the Province, Region and City regarding ownership and responsibility for sidewalks and other infrastructure.
- Held accessible housing dialogue.
- Received a presentation from a Rouge National Park / Altona Forest representative to consider potential accommodations to improve accessibility in rugged outdoor areas such as a photograph repository.

## **Site Plan Application Reviews**

- Worked with City staff through the site plan application review process to encourage the integration of accessibility considerations into the City’s planning processes.
- Reviewed 13 site plan applications, provided accessibility advice and comments, and monitored developers’ responsiveness to the Committee’s recommendations.

## **2017 Proposed Work Plan**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will continue to strive to provide information and recommendations for Council that are proactive and place Pickering at the forefront of accessibility in the Province. The Committee will consult, collaborate, and enhance inclusion through accessibility in the City of Pickering.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee plans to meet on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July and August.

The Committee plans to continue:

## **Awareness Activities**

- Present 2016 accessibility accomplishments and 2017 plan to City Council identifying priorities for the new year. This presentation provides an opportunity for an exchange of information and ideas on the status of Accessibility within the community and how it may be improved for the benefit of all of the City's residents.
- Attend City events for 2017 such as the Seniors Active Living Fair, Pickering 101, Your City/ArtFest, the Canada 150 Confederation Journey Youth Fair, RibFest, and Canada Day to raise awareness of accessibility achievements and issues within the community.
- Provide ongoing advice and support, and staff a booth with an engaging display and questionnaires for the Canada 150 Youth Forum: A Confederation Journey (1867-2067). This one-day event celebrates Canada's 150th birthday during National Youth Week, for youth ages 13-19, at the Pickering Recreation Complex. Thematically, the Canada 150 Youth Forum has been designed from the top down to pervasively model excellence in accessibility and inclusion. It aims to actively engage and motivate youth to think well beyond AODA compliance, and challenge them to stretch to envision the fully accessible and inclusive future of Pickering, Ontario and Canada.
- Attend and make a presentation at Region of Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee web accessibility forum on Friday, April 21, 2017. P. D'Intino, representing the City of Pickering, provided a keynote address on IT issues and access to web-based information.
- Attend and provide input to inform imminent national accessibility legislation at the Accessible Canada Consultation hosted by the Federal Government on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Toronto Chelsea Hotel.
- In partnership with the Pickering Public Library, AAC will continue to provide tailored tax clinic support for persons with disabilities.
- Foster/promote/support submissions for local, regional and provincial awards and grants to profile Pickering's accessibility achievements and commitment. To date:
  - Supported D.C. Onley Accessibility Leadership Award nomination for Delaney arena renovations
  - Supported OMSSA Accessibility Leadership Award regarding the Canada 150 Youth Forum: A Confederation Journey (1867-2067)
  - Supported two civic accessibility award nominations.
- Attended Pickering's accessibility presentation to a six-person delegation from the People's Republic of China on January 18, 2017 to provide a resident's perspective on accessibility progress and opportunities for improvement.
- Coordinate/author a periodic series of press releases on behalf of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to promote Pickering's accessibility-related events, accomplishments and challenges.

## **Policies, Standards and Implementation**

- Review and provide input to the City of Pickering's Recreation & Parks Master Plan.
-

- Monitor and provide proactive accessibility advice regarding Pickering's new Operation Centre planning and implementation.
- Conduct informal audits of City facilities and infrastructure to provide advice to improve accessibility; for example, with respect to curb cuts, tactile plates, etc.
- Provide advice on Canada Day preparations including: extended enhancements to Kinsmen Park pathway system; management of temporary accessible parking; accessible bus routes/stops; and, washrooms.
- Review City plans and tour the City capital projects such as the Council Chambers and the Operations Centre renovations to provide timely accessibility advice.
- Monitor and provide accessibility advice regarding walkway reconstructions, sidewalk retrofits, installation of tactile plates at intersections, as well as multi-use paths.
- Monitor new staff and volunteer training process.
- Attend Human Rights, Ableism training session April 27th organized by The Human Rights Commission, the Region of Durham and Trent University.
- Attend June 1<sup>st</sup> webcast of Accessibility Directorate of Ontario Forum.

## Collaboration

- Host MPP Tracy MacCharles, the Minister Responsible for Accessibility at an AAC meeting to seek to understand the current accessibility goals and priorities of the Province, and to establish mutually supportive relationships.
- Host discussions with Durham Region Transit regarding new standards for specialized accessibility services and the DRT specialized services appeal process.
- Collaborate and consult with regional and provincial accessibility professionals and advocates, such as the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) to stay abreast of emerging issues and best (successful) practices.
- Monitor Regional AAC minutes and attend Regional, Provincial, and Federal learning and networking opportunities; for example, Metrolinx consultation, ONAP conferences, Durham Region Accessibility training and development, Federal Accessibility consultations, etc.
- Foster accessible housing dialogues, potentially including developers and builders to explore what Pickering can do to set itself apart in accessible real estate development, and how partnerships can be used to influence developers and builders to further embrace accessibility.
- Consult with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Parks Canada and Altona Forest representatives to consider innovative methods of providing access to rugged, natural outdoor spaces.
- Monitor emerging legislation, regulations, standards, and policies from the Ontario and Federal Governments, particularly with respect to employment-related accessibility.
- Hold an AAC meeting at the Pickering Soccer Club to focus on reasonable accessibility accommodations in the context of sports and recreation programs, and to build strategic accessibility partnerships.

- Provide advice and support to the City of Pickering's first regionally-scoped camp staff training all-day workshop, as part of the City of Pickering's Summer Camp Accessibility initiative.
- Provide input to the TRCA regarding its proposed barrier-free outdoor learning space at Claremont Field Centre.
- Provide ongoing support for accessibility-themed funding and award submissions.

### Site Plan Application Reviews

- Work with City staff through the Site Plan Application Review process to encourage the proactive integration of accessibility considerations into the planning process.
- Advise with respect to new developments aimed at achieving an integrated and inclusive community, by complying with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005*, applying national and international best (successful) practices, and where possible, creatively exceeding minimum requirements of Ontario law.
- Provide accessibility advice on continuing development of Kingston Road as the main street of Pickering. Encourage proactive dialogue regarding the CNR overpass where modifications will be needed to permit barrier-free pedestrian access.

Submitted on behalf of the current Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee:

Peter Bashaw, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Andrew Doucette, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Bianca D'Souza, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Edward Fulton, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Daniel Hughes, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Vincenza Ronaldi, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Megan Thorpe Ross, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Jeannette Whynot, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Susan Wilkinson, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 David Wysocki, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
 Steve Bernardo, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade Representative

TH:th