



# Memo

To: Debbie Shields  
City Clerk

June 22, 2016

From: Tim Higgins  
Accessibility Coordinator

Copy: Chief Administrative Officer  
Directors

Subject: Accessibility Advisory Committee  
- 2015 Year End Report and 2016 Proposed Work Plan  
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The Accessibility Advisory Committee is pleased to present this overview of its 2015 Year End Report and the Committee's 2016 Proposed Work Plan.

## **2015 Year End Report**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee achieved the following in 2015:

### **Meetings**

- The Accessibility Advisory Committee held 8 regular meetings.

### **Site Plan Application Reviews**

- Reviewed and provided comments for 10 site plan applications.
- Worked with City staff through the site plan application review process to encourage the inclusion of accessibility considerations, as integral to the whole planning process. Encouraged inclusivity and the use of Universal Design Principles. Encouraged connectivity in the physical environment and separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic for improved safety.
- Provided information and recommendations to Council that would be proactive to place Pickering at the forefront of accessibility in the Province. Advice with respect to development of the new Seaton Community was aimed at achieving an integrated and inclusive community, using best practices, and where possible, exceeding minimum requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005*.

## **Awareness Activities**

- Attended City events such as Artfest and Canada Day, to raise awareness of accessibility issues within the community, including both visible and invisible disabilities such as hearing, mental health, and developmental disabilities.
- Developed activities and displays to engage and involve members of the public.
- Distributed the brochure “Accessibility is Good for Business” for developers and builders to encourage creation of accessible homes and developments within the City of Pickering.
- Reviewed and updated the Committee’s information brochure “Working Together to Ensure Access for All”.
- Promoted Ajax Pickering Board of Trade Lunch and Learn.
- Piloted assistive listening devices.
- Nominated Durham Regional Police Children’s Games Partnership for David C. Onley Award.

## **Policy, Standards, Implementation Activities**

- Monitored the progress of the proposed new accessible parking by-law, participated in and helped shape the design of the public consultation process.
- Provided input on updates to the City of Pickering’s Five-Year Accessibility Plan, which is the City’s plan and guide to implementing the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005*.
- Conducted regular audits of City facilities to provide recommendations for improved accessibility and compliance with updated standards.
- Collaborated and consulted with Regional and Provincial accessibility professionals.
- Reviewed drawings for splash pad installation.
- Reviewed Committee draft Terms of Reference and developed long-term priorities.

## **Public Input**

- Began the planning of a presentation to Council on Accessibility. This 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 all of the City’s residents.

## **Employment**

- Reviewed the *Employment Standards Act* and examined how accessibility in the workplace may be improved within the City of Pickering. Researched what programs and financial supports exist which may aid in that process; for example, YEAH Foundation – Opportunities Fund.
- Hosted presentation by The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW) regarding Opportunities Fund and the Ontario Workplace Inclusion Program.

## 2016 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 development of the Seaton Community continues to provide an opportunity to create an integrated and inclusive community, using best practices and exceeding minimum requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005*. The Committee will consult, collaborate, and enhance inclusion and accessibility in the City of Pickering.

The Committee plans to continue:

### Meetings

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

### Site Plan Application Reviews

- Work with City staff through the Site Plan Application Review process to encourage the inclusion of accessibility considerations, as integral to the whole planning process. Encourage inclusivity and the use of Universal Design Principles. Encourage connectivity in the physical environment and separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic for improved safety.
- Continue to strive to provide information and recommendations to Council that are proactive and place Pickering at the forefront of accessibility in the Region and Province.
- Advise with respect to development of the new Seaton community, aimed at achieving an integrated and inclusive community, by complying with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005*, applying national and international best practices, and where possible, creatively exceeding minimum requirements of the Ontario law.
- Collaborate and consult with regional and provincial accessibility professionals to stay abreast of emerging issues and best practices.

### Awareness Activities

- Attend City events such as the Seniors Active Living Fair, Pickering 101, Artfest, Ribfest, and Canada Day to raise awareness of accessibility issues within the community.
- Develop activities and displays to engage and involve members of the public.
- Hold first Disability Tax Clinic in partnership with the Pickering Public Library
- Foster/promote nominations for local, regional and provincial awards to profile Pickering accessibility achievements and commitment.

## **Policy, Standards, Implementation Activities**

- Provide advice on responses to Regulator’s request for information.
- Provide leadership, advice, and support to the consultation on the new accessible parking by-law and review the analysis of the consultation feedback, as well as the new draft by-law.
- Provide input on implementation of the City of Pickering’s Five-Year Accessibility Plan.
- Conduct regular audits of City facilities to provide recommendations for improved accessibility and compliance with standards; for example, curb cuts, special event accessible parking, and washrooms.
- Review new Standard Operating Procedures with respect to outdoor spaces (Built Environment) and recreation programs.
- Provide advice on enhancements to Kinsmen Park pathway system to be accessible and management of temporary accessible parking, accessible bus routes, and washrooms for Canada Day.
- Provide advice on other park development projects such as splash pad in Amberlea Park.
- Collaborate and consult with regional and provincial accessibility professionals.
- Review plans and tour major City projects such as the Delaney Arena, and Council Chambers renovation projects to provide timely advice.
- Review implications of partial repeal of *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA).

## **Public Input**

- Present 2015 accessibility accomplishments and 2016 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.

## **Employment**

- Monitor staff and volunteer training process and progress.

## **Innovation**

- Investigate accessibility innovations for potential use in Pickering; for example, “PingStreet”, “Access Now” apps, and TTY alternatives.

## **Collaboration**

- Hold discussions with Durham Region Transit regarding new standards for specialized accessibility services.
- Monitor Regional AAC minutes and attend Regional and Provincial learning and networking opportunities; for example, Metrolinx consultation, ONAP conferences, etc.
- Hold accessible housing dialogue with developers and builders.
- Meetings and walkabouts with Parks Canada and Altona Forest representatives.

## **AAC Appointments and Committee Expansion**

- Conduct an open competition for vacant Committee posts as well as expanding the Committee to its full complement of 10 members.

Submitted on behalf of the current Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee:

Peter Bashaw, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
Andrew Doucette, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
Edward Fulton, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
Daniel Hughes, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
Cody Morrison, 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  
Sanjin Zeco, Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee Member  
Steve Bernardo, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade Representative

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