



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee**

From: **Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator**

Meeting Date: **May 1, 2019**

Subject: **Report AAC19-020**
Peterborough Memorial Centre Autism Aware Initiative

Purpose

A report to introduce a presentation from the City's Accessibility Compliance Coordinator on the Peterborough Memorial Centre Autism Aware Initiative.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC19-020 dated May 1, 2019, of the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

That a presentation from the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

The City is partnering with Autism Ontario to make the Peterborough Memorial Centre an Autism Aware facility. The goal of the initiative is to provide enhanced customer service and targeted resources to help people with autism attend various events, such as games and concerts at the Peterborough Memorial Centre.

Autism Ontario will provide autism training to Peterborough Memorial Centre box office staff, ushers and ticket takers. The training will incorporate a lost child scenario and training on autism for both children and adults.

Autism Ontario will also donate sensory kits for children and adults with autism. The Peterborough Memorial Centre will be responsible to replenish the sensory kits as required. The take home kits will be available at the guest services desk and will include items such as fidget toys, stress ball, and ear plugs.

Noise cancelling headphones will also be available at the Peterborough Memorial Centre guest services desk to supplement the kits on a first come first serve basis. There will be a process in place to sign out the headphones.

Autism Ontario is developing a social storybook that provides a general overview of attending an event at the Peterborough Memorial Centre. The storybook will be available on the website and in hard copy format at the guest services desk.

The Peterborough Memorial Centre will update their website to describe the sensory kits and how to obtain one.

The project is anticipated to be launched in October during Autism Awareness Month.

Submitted by,

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Accessibility Compliance Coordinator

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