



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator

Meeting Date: April 7, 2021

Subject: Report AAC21-010
Accessibility Staff Report

Purpose

A report to advise the Accessibility Advisory Committee on the current work of Accessibility staff.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC21-010 dated April 7, 2021, of the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

That Report AAC21-010 with respect to the current work of Accessibility staff be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

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

Background

AODA Compliance

The City received a compliance extension to December 31, 2021 for section 14 of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), accessible websites and web content. The areas of non-compliance are related to online documents and videos on City websites.

Section 14 of the IASR requires online City websites, web content and web-based applications to meet the international standard for website accessibility called Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 at Levels A and AA, including all PDF documents.

The City continues to work towards compliance through action items related to software updates and maintenance, training, addressing new and existing online PDFs, procurement processes and annual budgeting. Significant compliance work will continue throughout 2021.

Accessibility Reviews

The best way to remove barriers is to prevent them. Accessibility staff provide formal reviews for various development applications and during the planning and design stages of City projects, including projects related to buildings, public spaces, services, documents, websites, by-laws, plans and policies. Reviews and research completed in March 2021 include:

1. Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications

No activity to report

2. Site Plan Control applications

- 191-203 Rink Street, 3rd submission (6 storey, 64 unit apartment building)

3. Infrastructure

- 2021 downtown COVID street reconfiguration (review Charlotte Street concept)
- Otonabee River Trail Crossing at Holiday Inn (review pathway slope, width, safety)

4. Websites and documents

Accessibility staff support various City departments every week to remediate PDFs or provide content on the website, either as HTML pages or as online forms. The following list represents a sampling of projects, research and education activities:

- Clerks eScribe software (Investigate the software features that support making various Council related documents accessible.)
- Cycling Master Plan vision goals memo (accessible document)
- Library colouring page (accessible document)
- Library donation receipt (advise on accessible form options)

- Peterborough Rowing Club and Canadian Canoe Museum ads in the Recreational Guide (accessible document, assisted two external designers)
- Herbarium Step by Step Guide (accessible document)
- Social Housing Providers web portal (advise on AODA requirement for extranet sites)
- Ontario Public Transit Association (educational campaign on priority seating)
- PDF/UA-1 (ongoing research on PDF standards as they relate to WCAG 2.0)

5. Bylaws, plans and policies

- Traffic Calming Policy (review how policy can make public spaces more accessible)

6. Procurement

Accessibility staff provide ongoing reviews of bid solicitation documents to ensure accessibility is incorporated into every major purchase the City makes. Every project requires the organization we do business with to complete accessibility training as it applies the scope of work. The following list represents a sampling of projects that incorporated accessibility beyond the training requirements:

- Ash tree stump removals (accessible documents)

7. Partnerships

- Ontario Public Transit Association (educational campaign on priority seating)
- Review Park & Zoo train station upgrades (service counter two-way electronic communication devices)

Temporary Changes to Downtown Public Space

A report will be presented to City Council at a Special General Committee meeting on March 29, 2021, reviewing the results of consultation for temporary changes to downtown public space, as well as proposed plan for 2021. The AAC received a presentation for information and feedback at the meeting on March 3, 2021. The staff report and accompanying documents can be found on the [Special General Committee Meeting webpage](#). The final recommendation will be considered by Council at their meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

[pub-peterborough.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=d7ede56b-c588-4434-b804-4e45366fe9aa&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English]

Council for Persons with Disabilities (CPD)

The Communication Coordinator continues to attend CPD board meetings electronically. At the CPD Board meeting on Friday, March 26, the Communication Coordinator discussed possible collaboration for National Accessibility Week events.

National AccessAbility Week, May 30 to June 5, 2021

Plans are underway as outlined in the February 3, 2021 Report AAC21-004. Suggestions from Committee members are welcome at any time.

Access Fund Update

No activity to report

Accessibility Training

Accessibility staff delivered two 2-hour workshops and two one-on-one training sessions in March 2021 on creating accessible PDFs. Staff knowledge of accessible documents and PDF remediation skills continues to grow monthly. There is currently 60 staff on a priority 1 training list.

Accessibility launched a new course called IAS-105-F Accessible PDF Compliance Check, through the City's [Accessibility Resources and Training web page](#). The course will help City staff verify if a document submitted by a consultant is accessible. The course is available to anyone who wants to learn more about checking for PDF compliance.

[peterborough.ca/aodatraining]

Legislation

No updates to report since the February 2021 Accessibility Staff Report

Resources

[AODA Toolbox, Ontario's Accessibility Newsletter, March 2021](#)

[mailchi.mp/ontario/aoda-toolbox-march-21-1390264?e=28c2a461d9]

The March 2021 newsletter features articles on:

- The Government of Ontario has posted the [Employment Standards Development Committee's Final Recommendations Report](#) online.
[ontario.ca/page/2019-review-employment-standards-final-recommendations-report]
- The partnership between the Government of Ontario and Ryerson University's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education has produced [The Accessibility Maze](#), a serious game aimed at teaching digital accessibility awareness to those new to the topic.
[de.ryerson.ca/games/accessibility/#/]
- George Brown College – [Ontario Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults Survey Available Now](#). George Brown College's Deaf Learn Now is the first online literacy and basic skills program in the world for Deaf, deafblind, deafened and hard of hearing adults (Ontario residents only). All courses are free, are operated by George Brown College and funded by Employment Ontario.

Deaf Learn Now Program has partnered with Deaf Literacy Initiative to develop a province-wide survey for Deaf, deafblind, deafened and hard of hearing Ontario adults. Through the survey, the program aims to learn more about the needs and barriers to employment and education for this specific Ontario cohort.

[deaflearnnow.ca/survey/]

- Registered Graphic Designers (RGD) Accessibility in Design Webinar Series: the RGD continues to educate graphic designers, the wider communication arts communities and the general public with [a series of graphic design webinars on accessibility](#) that continues into June.

[rgd.ca/events-and-programs/upcoming-events/main/210/events/tag4290.php]

Submitted by,

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