



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Travis Patterson, Program Manager, Accessibility Standards and Integration

Meeting Date: May 6, 2026

Report: National Accessibility Week 2026, Report AAC26-011

Subject

A report to update the Accessibility Advisory Committee on the City's plan to mark and celebrate National AccessAbility Week 2026.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC26-011, dated May 6, 2026, of the Program Manager, Accessibility Standards and Integration as follows:

That the AAC receive Report AAC26-011 for information on the City's plan to mark and celebrate National Accessibility Week 2026.

Executive Summary

- National AccessAbility Week 2026 (NAW) will take place May 31, 2026, to June 6, 2026.
- The City plans to mark NAW 2026 with various announcements, celebrations, and events, including the implementation of the new City of Peterborough Corporate Accessibility Policy.

Background

National AccessAbility Week is an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions and leadership of persons with disabilities in Canada. Additionally, NAW celebrates the work of allies, organizations, and communities that continue to work towards removing barriers to become a more accessible and inclusive community.

The City of Peterborough adopts a theme set out by the Government of Canada and partners with the Council for Persons with Disabilities for the annual celebration. The 2026 theme is “Building a Strong, Accessible Canada.”

Celebration Plan for National AccessAbility Week 2026:

- Proclamation by the Mayor.
- Spread awareness about Red Shirt Day on June 3, 2026. Established by Easter Seals Canada in 2019, Red Shirt Day is about making a commitment to remove physical, attitudinal, and systemic barriers to accessibility and inclusion.
- Spread accessibility awareness messaging via the City’s website daily with themed social media posts. Topics include but are not limited to hearing loop systems, the AAC, support animals, accessibility features at City Facilities, and the Council for Persons with Disabilities event calendar, celebrating the 5th anniversary of CapableCon.
- Launch the City’s new Corporate Accessibility Policy.
- Workshop for City staff hosted by Abilities Centre via Microsoft Teams on June 4, 2026. This online workshop program focuses on Disability Inclusion and runs from 9:00am until 10:30am.
- The Peterborough Public Library will be hosting an online program delivered by Enabled Talent, a Canadian organization that focuses on increasing employment accessibility for those with disabilities. “Finding Work That Works for You” will be hosted on Zoom at 2:00pm on June 2, 2026.
- Recreation events planned throughout the week to showcase accessible recreation opportunities.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Strategic Priority: Aligns with the Community & Well-being Pillar, which reads “Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, civic pride, sense of belonging, and inter-cultural harmony. Enhance and protect the health, safety, and well-being of all in our City. Provide robust, affordable and accessible sport, recreation, wellness, arts and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.”

Strategic Pillar: Governance & Fiscal Sustainability

Strategic Initiative: Aligns with the Governance & Fiscal Sustainability Pillar which reads, “Proactively advocating for Peterborough’s interests by working with other levels of government and optimizing strategic opportunities as they arise for the benefit of our City. Continue the work to strengthen our relationships with the provincial and federal governments, and our regional partners to make these relations more productive, collaborative, and complementary.”

Observing NAW 2026 demonstrates the City’s leadership in accessibility and inclusion, supporting legislative compliance, and reinforces the City’s shared responsibility to foster an inclusive community. NAW 2026 celebrates progress and promotes accessible services, programs and spaces for our community and those it serves.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the information being received by the AAC.

Submitted by,

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