



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator

Meeting Date: November 4, 2015

Subject: Report AAC15-037
Accessibility Office Report

Purpose

A report to advise the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on the current work of the Accessibility Office.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the recommendation outlined in Report AAC15-037 dated November 4, 2015 of the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

That Report AAC15-037 with respect to the current work of the Accessibility Office be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

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

Background

Funding Opportunities

The Accessibility Office actively monitors funding opportunities to improve accessibility of City services.

The [Abilities Connect Fund](http://www.abilitiesconnect.ca) (www.abilitiesconnect.ca), administered by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, provides funds for hiring and accommodating people with disabilities. Business or not-for-profit organizations that employ between five to 500 people are eligible. The program is supported by the Government of Ontario.

There are two funding streams:

- **The Valuing Ability Employment stream**

Assists employers in hiring and training post-secondary students or recent graduates with disabilities. Employers are eligible to receive funding for training costs (up to eight weeks), for up to four employees or Co-operative Education Program students.

- **The Valuing Ability Workplace Solutions stream**

supports employers by funding the purchase of technologies, assistive devices and specialized training to support employees with disabilities. Employers are eligible for up to \$3,000 to purchase necessary devices or specialized training.

Accessibility Awards

- **The David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility**

The David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility recognizes Ontarians who have gone above and beyond in improving accessibility for people with disabilities. The deadline for nominations is December 3, 2015.

[The David C. Onley Award Nomination Information](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citizenship/honours/onley.shtml)

(<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citizenship/honours/onley.shtml>)

- **June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario**

Ms Callwood was a Canadian journalist, author and social activist. She committed her life to action on social justice issues, particularly those related to woman and children. She founded, or co-founded, more than 50 Canadian social action organizations. The deadline for nominations is December 5, 2015.

[June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario](#)

Council for Persons with Disabilities

A staff member from the City of Peterborough typically attends meetings of the Council for Persons with Disabilities. There has been no attendance over the summer due to a vacancy in the Accessibility Office.

Accessibility Reviews: Public Spaces and Buildings

The best way to remove barriers in public spaces and buildings is to prevent them. The Accessibility Office provides formal reviews during the planning and design stages of all City projects. Recent reviews include:

- King Edward Park: Washroom Building design review
- New Arena Complex: prime consultant request for proposal review
- Rugby Clubhouse: accessible parking space review
- Memorial Centre: Storage building request for tender review
- Jackson Creek Diversion/Bethune Street reconstruction: project kick-off meeting
- Simcoe Street reconstruction (George to Millennium Park): review design concept
- Parkhill Road West reconstruction Phase 2 (Ravenwood area): review final design
- City Hall elevator refurbishment: review installation of upgrades
- Collection and Transportation of Recyclable Material: review request for proposal

Accessibility Reviews: Policies, By-Laws and Plans

The Accessibility Office provides input during the process of creating policies, by-laws and plans. Recent input was provided for:

- Vision 2025 Strategic Plan for Recreation, Parks, Arenas, Culture
- Provision of Sidewalks Policy: review of existing policy
- Complete Streets Policy: review of proposed new policy
- Sponsorship Policy: review of proposed new policy

Resources

The Accessibility Office actively monitors accessibility resources to assist in research, implementation and education:

- a) [Accessibility Standards for Customer Service](http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/070429) was amended on October 1, 2015 (<http://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/070429>)
- b) [Greater Peterborough Vital Signs](http://www.cfgp.ca/vitalsigns/) is a collaborative community initiative led by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. It is a snapshot of our community that measures the vitality of Greater Peterborough, identifies needs, strengths and trends, and supports actions on issues that are critical to our quality of life. (<http://www.cfgp.ca/vitalsigns/>)

- c) [Ontario Moving Forward with Accessibility Certification Program](http://news.ontario.ca/medt/en/2015/05/ontario-moving-forward-with-accessibility-certification-program.html)
(<http://news.ontario.ca/medt/en/2015/05/ontario-moving-forward-with-accessibility-certification-program.html>)

Ontario is continuing its work towards an accessible province by 2025 by exploring options for a new accessibility certification program.

The province will consult with industry, disability advocates, certification experts, municipalities and not-for-profits to develop a voluntary, third-party certification program.

The program is inspired by the success of the [LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/leed) system (www.usgbc.org/leed) which promotes excellence in green building. This accessibility certification program will recognize the businesses and organizations that have championed accessibility.

Submitted by,

Mark Buffone
Accessibility Compliance Coordinator

Contact Names:

Mark Buffone
Accessibility Compliance Coordinator
Phone: 705-705-742-7777, extension 1630
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax: 705-876-4607
E-mail: mbuffone@peterborough.ca