



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Trish Reed, Accessibility and Communication Specialist
Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator and

Meeting Date: January 6, 2016

Subject: Report AAC16-006
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 approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC16-006 dated January 6, 2016, of the Accessibility and Communication Specialist and the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

That Report AAC16-006 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

Playspace Accessibility Course

On November 24, 2015, the Accessibility and Communication Specialist, the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator, the Public Works Parks Operator/Playground Practitioner and a Public Works Foreman attended a Playspace Accessibility Course facilitated by the Canadian Playground Safety Institute (CPSI). The course focused on the non-mandatory section of the CSA standard for Children's Playspaces and Equipment called Annex H. The Annex provides recommended minimum requirements for accessibility in playspaces intended for use by children aged 18 months to 12 years. Staff in attendance learned how to inspect playspaces for compliance with Annex H of the CSA standard.

Council for Persons with Disabilities

The Accessibility and Communication Specialist attended the December 17, 2015, meeting.

City Business Card Review

In response to a request by the AAC to investigate how City business cards could be made more accessible, the Accessibility Office developed proposed revisions to the existing City business card template. The proposed revisions (Appendix A) include enlarging the font size and relocating some information to the back side of the card. The proposed layout also accommodates a growing request from staff to include a Quick Response (QR) code on the card.

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:

- Peterborough Public Library temporary space: layout review
- Peterborough Public Library Expansion and Renovation: plumbing fixture review
- Accessible Housing Unit at Sunshine Homes: walkway and parking space review
- Memorial Centre Storage Building: review request for tender (RFT)
- Peterborough Waste Water Treatment Plant: review request for proposal (RFP)
- 246 George Street (old Craftworks site): new sidewalk as part of parking lot work
- Parkhill Road West reconstruction Phase 3 (Brealey area): review final design
- Utility Services Standard Details: tactile walking surface indicators

Accessibility Reviews: Information and Communication

To make information accessible to as many people as possible, the Accessibility Office provides formal reviews for various document and website projects. Recent reviews include:

- Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre: Winter 2016 Program Guide
- Age-Friendly Peterborough: review formatting for the Consultation Data Summary

Resources

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

- a) [Accessibility Standards for Customer Service](#) - The Ontario government is proposing amendments to the accessibility standard for customer service to clarify and streamline requirements that are based on advice from the Minister's Standards Development Committee. These changes are also intended to enhance accessibility in customer service for people with disabilities.

The proposed amendments to the Customer Service Standard are largely based on recommendations from the review of the Standard by the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council/Standards Development Committee in 2013-2014. The Ministry has prepared a [detailed summary](#) and is proposing that these changes be enacted on July 1, 2016, and take immediate effect.

- b) [Ontario Moving Forward with Accessibility Certification Program](#) - Ontario is continuing its work towards an accessible province by 2025 by exploring options for a new accessibility certification program.

On November 16, Minister Brad Duguid announced the launch of a public engagement process to support the development of a voluntary third-party accessibility certification program.

An online platform, certifiedforaccess.ca, is intended to engage participants and allow them to have their say in shifting the accessibility landscape in Ontario and beyond. This engagement will bring together businesses, people with disabilities, disability advocates, certification experts, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations in a transparent and inclusive way.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Proposed Revisions to the Existing City Business Card Template