



City of  
**Peterborough**

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

**From:** Trish Reed, Accessibility and Communication Specialist

**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2016

**Subject:** Report AAC16-007  
Access Fund Guidelines

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## **Purpose**

A report to seek input regarding the City of Peterborough's (City) Access Fund Guidelines.

## **Recommendations**

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendations outlined in Report AAC16-007 dated February 3, 2016 of the Accessibility and Communication Specialist as follows:

- a) That the AAC become the approval level for the distribution of funds from the Access Fund;
- b) That the Access Fund Request Form (Appendices A and B) be amended to allow Sub-Committees of the AAC to provide written comment to the AAC where applicable;
- c) That the AAC update the Access Fund Guidelines (Appendix C);
- d) That the AAC provide input regarding promotion of the Access Fund to City staff by the Sub-Committees and the Accessibility Office.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

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

## **Background**

The City is committed to demonstrating leadership for accessibility in the community. The Access Fund has helped to meet the goal of an inclusive environment for City facilities, services, and communication.

Since 2009, the Built Environment Sub-Committee has successfully approved the distribution of funds for projects and equipment that have helped the City meet the diverse needs of the community. Funds have been contributed to retrofits to new and existing City facilities and assistive devices to enhance communication. In 2015, \$16,315.68 was used to purchase a water wheel chair at the Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre and install a walkway at King Edward Park.

The current Access Fund guidelines limit the projects, devices, programs and services that monies can be used for. This fund has the potential of reaching beyond projects that are being presented to the Built Environment Sub-Committee for review.

As members appointed by Council, the AAC has an opportunity to distribute funds to remove barriers and enhance minimum legislative requirements relating to the design of public spaces, transportation, built environment, customer service, and information and communications.

Because of their expertise, the Sub-Committees have valuable insight into their particular area of study, and where applicable this insight should be conveyed to the AAC on the Access Fund Request Form.

The Access Fund has a balance of \$207,494.68 and many City departments are unaware of the existence or the purpose of the fund. More requests may be made if the Access Fund is promoted by the Sub-Committees and the Accessibility Office.

## **Next Steps**

If the proposed changes are adopted by the AAC, the Built Environment Committee will be notified by the Chair and the Accessibility Office at the March 18, 2016 meeting.

Submitted by,

Trish Reed  
Accessibility and Communication Specialist

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Access Fund Request Form

Appendix B – Draft Amended Access Fund Request Form

Appendix C – Access Fund Guidelines