



Peterborough Lakefield  
Police Services Board

## Public Session

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**TO:** Chair and Members  
Peterborough Lakefield Police Services Board

**FROM:** Niquel Pritchard Pataki

**REPORT DATE:** September 2012

**MEETING DATE:** October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Upcoming Requirements of the Board with Respect to  
Accessibility Standards and Taxi Cabs

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### PURPOSE

A report to inform the Board of their legislated duties with respect to the Integrated Accessibility Standards coming up in January of 2013.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the recommendation(s) outlined in this Report, as follows:

That the Board receive this report on the accessibility legislation requirements due by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.

Further, that the Board appoint a member to attend the two upcoming Accessibility Advisory Committee Meetings on October 25<sup>th</sup> with S-E-L and November 7<sup>th</sup> with the City of Peterborough to obtain their feedback and ideas and report back to the Board at the November meeting.

### STRENGTH IMPACT

N/A

Appendix “A”

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **BACKGROUND**

In the fall of 2011, the Board revamped the taxi bylaw to ensure it was compliant with Ontario Regulation 191/11 - Integrated Accessibility Standard.

Part of this regulation includes:

### **Duties of Municipalities and Taxicabs**

- 79.(1) Every municipality shall consult with its municipal accessibility advisory committee, where one has been established in accordance with subsection 29 (1) or (2) of the Act, the public and persons with disabilities to determine the proportion of on-demand accessible taxicabs required in the community.
- (2) Every municipality shall identify progress made toward meeting the need for on-demand accessible taxicabs, including any steps that will be taken to meet the need, in its accessibility plan required under Part 1.
- (3) Municipalities shall meet the requirements of this section by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Because the Police Services Board administers and licenses taxis in both Peterborough and Lakefield, we will be responsible for meeting with the accessibility advisory committees for both the City of Peterborough and the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield to discuss these items by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. This is to be done every five years.

The City's Accessibility Advisory Committee is meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.

S-E-L's Accessibility Advisory Committee is meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Someone from the Board can attend the meeting or we can simply provide information outlining the specific feedback we are looking for.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Joanne Cowley, the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator for the City, asked what progress has been made with respect to these matters. She was informed by the Administrative Assistant that the Board will be discussing this at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and looking at the next steps to ensure we are compliant.

Appendix “A”

From the information above, it appears as though several questions must be answered by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013:

1. How does the Board wish to consult with the public and with persons with disabilities to determine this need?
2. What is the level of service required in our two municipalities for accessible taxi cabs?
3. Do the two taxi firms have enough vehicles and certified drivers to handle the requirements of our two communities?
4. What must be done to ensure that the needs of the communities are being met?
5. How does the Board wish to communicate this progress?

Currently, there are 12 accessible taxi cabs operating in the City of Peterborough and Ward of Lakefield. Capitol has 10 and Call-A-Cab has 2. This information has been shared with the City’s Accessibility Co-ordinator and the Clerk for S-E-L.

## **BUSINESS PLAN REFERENCE**

N/A

## **SUMMARY**

The Administrative Assistant contacted other Police Services Boards who administer the taxi bylaws in their municipalities to see what approach they are using. Joanne Cowley also contacted other municipalities. Here are some of the suggestions we received:

Obtain stats from the taxi firms regarding the number of calls for accessible taxis and compare this to the information the Advisory Committee has.

A public survey via Survey Monkey and the results reported to Board and Advisory Committee

Questions being put into the municipality’s monthly newsletter

Hiring a consultant to review the need in the community and report back to the Board and/or Advisory Committee

Reporting the progress made in the Police Service’s Annual Report and/or Business Plan

Several municipalities were not aware of the pending requirements and were not doing anything. One municipality indicated they were experiencing push back from the industry due to the high cost to purchase accessible taxis. Another city currently has no accessible taxis in operation. Regardless of the findings in any municipality, a taxi firm cannot be forced to purchase more accessible vehicles.

Prepared, Submitted and Reviewed by: Niquel Pritchard Pataki, Administrative Assistant to the Board