



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

FROM: Phyllis Hodder, Accessibility Coordinator

MEETING DATE: November 6, 2013

SUBJECT: Report AAC13-015
The Access Fund Update and Guideline Review

PURPOSE

A report to provide updated financial information on the Access Fund and recommend that revisions to the Access Fund Guidelines, as proposed by the Built Environment Committee, be approved to reflect the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the recommendations outlined in Report AAC13-015, dated November 6, 2013 of the Accessibility Coordinator as follows:

- a) That the Access Fund Report as of August 30, 2013, as set out in Appendix A, be received, and
- b) That the Access Fund Guidelines, Updated July 10, 2013, as set out in Appendix B, be approved.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

BACKGROUND

The Built Environment Committee, a sub-committee of the Accessibility Advisory Committee continues to review and approve requests for the Access Fund. The Access Fund has a current annual budget of \$90,000. The fund provides for accessibility improvements and retrofits to existing facilities owned by the City of Peterborough. The current balance of the Access Fund is \$161,807.18 as shown on Appendix A.

In addition to reviewing and approving requests for the Access Fund, some members of the Built Environment Committee met to review the current guidelines for the Access Fund (See Appendix B). The Access Fund was established to assist the City of Peterborough to improve accessibility of City facilities. The changes to the Access Fund Guidelines are a reflection of the Province of Ontario accessibility legislation, **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)**. The Access Fund is utilized for:

- The cost related to retrofits to existing City facilities to ensure accessibility, including buildings, parks and infrastructure as required in the Ontario Building Code (OBC), the Final Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard (July, 2010), and the Design of Public Spaces Standards as found in the Integrated Accessibility Standards (IAS) regulation.
- The cost of assistive devices to enhance communication as per the **AODA** Customer Service, Employment and Information and Communications Standard.

These updates provide a clear guideline to ensure that the Access Fund is administered correctly.

Submitted by,

Phyllis Hodder, Accessibility Coordinator

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Access Fund Report as of August 30, 2013

Appendix B – Access Fund Guideline Review

Appendix A

Access Fund Report
As of August 30, 2013

Balance Carried over from Previous Years	\$312,139.86
Plus 2013 Access Fund	<u>+ \$ 90,000.00</u>
	\$ 402,139.86

Less 2013 Expenses to Date

Water Wheelchairs Wellness Centre	\$ 3,985.30
Property – City Council Chambers Renovations	\$100,000.00
Property – City Hall Tax Office and Reception	\$ 50,000.00
Recreation – Wellness Centre Pedestrian Barricades	\$ 1,876.20
Special Projects – Nicholls Oval Splash Pad	<u>\$ 20,900.00</u>
	\$176,761.50

Less Commitments

Recreation – Accessible Parking Walker Avenue	\$10,000.00
Fire Services – Sherbrooke Fire Hall Bathroom Renovation	\$20,020.00
Property/Energy – Accessible Washroom Renovation (C.H.)	\$25,000.00
Museum lower level washroom renovation	<u>\$ 13,000.00</u>
Less Total Commitments	\$ 68,020.00

Uncommitted Balance	\$ 4,448.82
Balance Available	<u>\$161,807.18</u>
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Appendix B

Access Fund Guidelines Updated July 10, 2013

In 1989, upon a recommendation of the Buildings Committee (a sub-committee of the Council for Persons with Disabilities), Peterborough City Council adopted a policy on Barrier-Free Access to City of Peterborough (City) owned buildings. At that time several recommendations were approved including an annual contribution of \$50,000 to a reserve fund for barrier free improvements to existing City of Peterborough buildings.

Since the commencement of the Access Fund in 1989 the sum of money placed in reserve to remove barriers at City facilities was \$50,000. In 2013 \$90,000 was assigned to the Access Fund. Over the years the Access Fund has been utilized to upgrade a number of City owned buildings, thereby making a significant contribution to accessibility.

In 2005, the Ontario Government passed the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)** to make Ontario accessible by 2025.

Under this legislation accessibility standards have been created as part of the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005**. These standards are rules that businesses and organizations in Ontario need to follow to identify, remove and prevent barriers so that people with disabilities have more opportunities to participate in everyday life.

The Integrated Accessibility Standard, which addresses Information and Communication, Employment and Transportation was passed in 2011 and has deadlines from 2011 to 2021. In late 2012 the Ontario Government added the Design of Public Spaces to the Integrated Standard; this Standard becomes law on January 1, 2016.

An accessibility standard for the built environment is in development and is not yet law.

The City of Peterborough and the AAC are dedicated to improving accessibility based on the **AODA** standards and therefore the following Access Fund Guidelines have been reviewed and updated to reflect the Province of Ontario's new legislation. The Access Fund is to be utilized by the City of Peterborough to assist with:

- The cost related to **retrofits to existing City facilities** to ensure accessibility, including buildings, parks and infrastructure as required in the Ontario Building Code (OBC), the Final Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard (July, 2010), and the Design of Public Spaces Standards as required in the Integrated Accessibility Standards (IAS) regulation.
- The cost of **assistive devices to enhance communication** as per the **AODA** Customer Service, Employment and Information and Communications Standard
- All requests for funds must be sent to the Accessibility Coordinator and each request must be accompanied with the Access Fund Request Form
- Each request has to be reviewed by the AAC or such sub-committee as the Built Environment Committee in a timely manner
- It is the responsibility of the Accessibility Coordinator to communicate with each applicant regarding the request for funds
- At each Built Environment Committee meeting an update on the Access Fund is to be presented

(Updated July 10, 2013)