

Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022 Year-End Summary

Vision

All people in Brighton, regardless of age and abilities, have barrier free access to full and equal participation in the community including opportunities for work, shop, travel and play

2022 Summary

The committee has met 5 times since December 2021, both in person and virtually. A community awareness project was completed in May for National AccessAbility Awareness Week in the form of a walking tour highlighting accessibility features in Brighton. An Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy has been created to incorporate all 5 aspects of the AODA Regulation and will outline the Municipality's guidelines for identifying and removing barriers to accessibility. See below for further work accomplished in the past year.

Customer Service

Provision of accessible, quality customer service in response to the diverse needs of the Municipality of Brighton. Supported through:2022

1. Continuing to develop and improve municipal forms, applications and permits (online and in person) to eliminate barriers to persons with disabilities.
2. The Municipality's Customer Service Policies and Procedures support barrier free interactions with its customers.
3. Municipal leadership to individuals, organizations and businesses regarding barrier free access to goods, services and facilities.

2022 Summary: Captioning was included for past recordings of council and committee meetings. Live captioning for Council meetings has been implemented as of July 2022 and will occur for all council meetings whenever reasonably possible. In collaboration with the Municipality's GIS program, a public-facing map is being created which will outline several accessibility features within Brighton and will be available on the Municipal website. Many forms on the municipal website are now accessible through a built-in function on the website meaning there is no need to download or print out a form.

2023 Goals: promote the Accessibility Audit for Businesses document and make it available on the municipal website.

Information and Communication

Provision of Municipal information and communications in accessible and alternative formats. Supported through:

1. Accessible internet, website and social media content, signage and application forms.
2. Compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.
3. Preparation and implementation of process for accommodations for municipal election.

2022 Summary: Word accessibility tips were developed and sent to staff regarding small changes that could be made to enhance the accessibility of their documents. PDF accessibility training was provided to power users and a PDF training document was created to support their accessible remediation efforts outside of training. PDFs on the Municipal website were made accessible with a current scoring of over 89% of documents being accessible. The Municipality's RFP process now includes the requirement for vendors to provide accessible project deliverables or remediation of these deliverables for an additional cost. Election planning involved the creation of the 2022 Election Accessibility Plan which was developed and is available on the website. The accessible election process included a change in voting method from vote by mail to internet vote allowing convenience and decreased barriers for those with vision loss.

2023 Goals: Work alongside the new municipal IT Manager to increase the accessibility of the municipal website to comply with WCAG 2.0 standards.

Employment

Full participation of persons with disabilities in Municipality of Brighton employment. Supported through:

1. Provision of individual employee accommodation plans.
2. Support for employees with disabilities in emergency situations.

2023 Goals: Work with new HR manager to review and fulfill all employment standards.

Accessible Transportation

That all members of the Municipality of Brighton will be informed of available transportation options and be able to access accessible transportation within Quinte West and Northumberland County.

1. Continued participation with Quinte Transit
2. Expand transportation options to include timely and affordable options.

2022 Summary: The committee reviewed Brighton's bus stops along the Quinte Transit Bus Route and had several benches installed.

2023 Goals: receive a regular update from Quinte Transit committee regarding accessibility.

Accessible Public Spaces

Greater accessibility into, within, out of and around Municipality of Brighton facilities, parks, trails and public spaces. Supported through:

1. A barrier free trail and sidewalk system with routes and connections designed for all levels of mobility.
2. Consultation with the AAC to ensure all new public space projects are audited for accessibility needs.
3. Accessibility Standards that are integrated into all public spaces, facilities, parks, trails and sidewalks.

2022 Summary: The Municipality received 18K through the Enabling Accessibility Fund for the accessible remediation of an exterior door and the addition of 2 power door operators within the Municipal Office. A site plan review process was initiated with a member from Planning attending all future meetings regarding site plan review to be a resource to the committee. The committee had the opportunity to review an exterior path of travel outside the pickle ball courts and a new recreational trail for accessibility requirements and provide any comments to Municipal Staff.

2023 Goals: investigate adopting a set of universal design standards for use in the municipality. Perform updated accessibility audits on municipal facilities to identify areas of remediation.