

Accessibility Advisory Committee 2023 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.

2023 Summary

The committee has met 5 times in 2023, in person with a virtually hybrid option. A community awareness project was completed in May and June for National AccessAbility Awareness Week with an information booth set up in our Brighton Public Library lobby. The Municipality of Brighton organized with Treat Accessibly movement to provide 100 signs to residents for them to promote that they will offer accessible trick-or-treating during Halloween, helping make trick-or-treating accessible for all children. With Treat Accessibly, we also provided over 100 copies of the book "Atticus Goes Trick-or-Treating" for free to children and their families. 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:

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.

2023 Summary: Captioning continues to be available for meetings of council. Live captioning for Council meetings continues to be available for use on the meeting portal. 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. Printed copies of forms can be made available for persons who required a printed copy.

2024 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.

2023 Summary: Staff continues to seek out training opportunities for continued education for accessible documents and communications. The Municipality of Brighton has signed up to take part in the Leading Equitable & Accessible Delivery (“LEAD”) process through the Abilities Centre to help with achieving accessibility and inclusion within our organization as well as within the community. The process will be ongoing for several years with regular check-ins with the Abilities Centre.

2024 Goals: continue to work alongside the 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.

2024 Goals: Continue to work with 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.

2023 Summary: The committee received a delegation from Quinte Transit and provided their comments of possible improvements for the transportation in the Municipality of Brighton.

2024 Goals: receive regular updates from Quinte Transit committee regarding accessibility by way of annual delegation to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

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.

2023 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. While the entire project was not able to be completed due to a significant increase to the cost of the project, the 2 power door operators within the Municipal Office were installed and approval was received from the grant funder to utilize the remaining funds towards the purchase of a new accessible podium for Council Chambers as well as the replacement of several door knobs to an accessible lever-style handle for offices, storage rooms, and bathroom within the Municipal building. This work is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

2024 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.