

2013-2014 City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Plan

Under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, the municipality is required to prepare an annual Accessibility Plan for both the City of Greater Sudbury and Greater Sudbury Transit. The 2013-2014 Annual Accessibility Plan has been prepared within the broader context of the City of Greater Sudbury's Multi-Year Plan for the period 2013 - 2017 as was approved by Council Resolution 2012-360 in the fall of 2012. The Multi-Year Plan is available online at: [http://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/Multi-Year%20Accessibility%20Plan\(1\).pdf](http://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/Multi-Year%20Accessibility%20Plan(1).pdf)

The City's Accessibility Advisory Panel provides advise to staff on the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan. The members of the panel for the term 2011 – 2014 are:

Linda Whiteside, Chair

Lionel Courtemanche, Vice-Chair

E.J. Craig Ticalo, Vice-Chair

Councillor Claude Berthiaume

Councillor Joscelyne Landry-Altman

Bob Bannister

Earl Black

Norma Fitzgerald

Linda Mende

Andrew Olivier

The three priorities set-out in the Multi-Year Plan form the basis for the accessibility work over the past several months and of the work that is planned for the balance of 2013 and into 2014. The three priorities were developed based on input received from the public over the past five years and on the foundation of increasing accessibility for two distinct segments of the population, being children and seniors.

Priority One: Legislative Compliance

The City of Greater Sudbury has achieved compliance in all elements of the new Integrated Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 191/11 which were to be implemented in 2013. Legislative compliance includes not only compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and its associated regulations but also ensuring compliance with Accessibility provisions of other acts. For example compliance with the accessibility elements of the Municipal Election Act will be a priority in 2014.

Elements related to Information and Communications and Employment sections of the Integrated Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 191/11 which will have significant organizational impacts and which require resources to achieve compliance in the years ahead include: Training (2014); Recruitment and Employment Policies (2014); and Accessible Communication Supports (2015). Greater Sudbury Transit is using the Ontario Professional Transit Association's "Public Transit Industry Compliance Workbook"

to assist in meeting AODA Regulation 191/11 as the organization works towards compliance on the following elements: Revised Eligibility Process (2014); Review of Booking Systems (2014); Pre-Boarding Announcements (2017); and Categories of Eligibility (2017).

Priority Two: Community Mobility

The City of Greater Sudbury continues to work on Community Mobility on two fronts, being sidewalks and transit. The City of Greater Sudbury conventional transit fleet is now fully accessible and as transit vehicles are replaced they feature the newest and most accessible features available. The city operates a fully parallel Handi-Transit system which is currently being reviewed so as to make the service more efficient and responsive to rider needs. As sidewalks are built or renewed, accessibility features are added.

As noted above, there is a significant body of work associated with the review of the Handi-Transit service so as to create efficiencies and a more effective, rider oriented services while responding to the revised eligibility and booking systems reviews as mandated in legislation. This review is very much a consultative process, involving the service provider, users, stakeholder groups and the Accessibility Advisory Panel and has also included consultations with other municipalities on their best practices. Linda Whiteside, Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Panel has attended all the meetings associated with this review. Public input sessions which were held in November 2012 and a telephone survey of active users was completed in February 2013.

Several themes emerged from the meetings including how best to define the Handi-Transit Service; identifying and removing barriers to use of the Conventional system; determining criteria for Handi-Transit ridership; how best to manage booking and completion of trips, including trip prioritization considerations; how to achieve fare parity between systems; and rider/operator relationships. More details are available in a report to the Operations Committee which is available online at: <http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=645&itemid=6521&lang=en>

Priority Three: Access to Recreation

In the last term of Council, the Accessibility Advisory Panel received information on accessible and inclusive play which lead to a transformation in thinking about how children use, access and integrate in playground settings. The Panel has embarked on a second transformative project which builds on the uniqueness of Greater Sudbury as a "City of Lakes". Work is underway to identify opportunities and solutions that would make our lakes more accessible through both waterfront and shoreline access, including the ability to get across a sand beach and into the water.

Staff has been working on sourcing equipment and solutions with regards to how to make Bell Park and in particular Bell Park beaches more accessible. As possible solutions are identified and a project proposal developed, they will be reviewed by the

Accessibility Advisory Panel in the fall of 2013 or early 2014 with a view to bringing a proposal to Council for the spring of 2014 and next summer's beach season.

Conclusion:

Working on the three priorities for accessibility as approved by Council has enabled both staff and the Accessibility Advisory Panel to focus on a systematic approach to removing building accessibility in municipal programs, facilities and services. Each year, the Greater Sudbury Accessibility Plan is presented to the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury for approval and is subsequently made available on the City of Greater Sudbury Website. Copies of the Plan are also provided to individuals and organizations upon request.