



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2007

Section 1

1. The Plan

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each Municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 requires that the accessibility plan include:

- a) a report on the measures the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- b) the measures in place to ensure that the municipality assesses its proposals for by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility;
- c) a list of the by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services that the municipality will review in the coming year in order to identify barriers;
- d) the measures that the municipality intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers; and
- e) make the accessibility plan available to the public.

1 (i) Obligations to Consult

The ODA specifies that organizations with annual accessibility planning obligations consult with people with disabilities or with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario in the preparation of their plans.

Section 2

2. The Committee

Functions of the Committee

- a) Establish an accessibility working group.
- b) Commit to accessibility planning.
- c) Review recent initiatives and successes in identifying, removing and preventing barriers within the services offered by the Town of Kapuskasing.
- d) Identify (list/categorize) barriers that may be addressed in the coming year.
- e) Set priorities and develop strategies to address barrier removal and prevention.
- f) Specify how and when progress is to be monitored.
- g) Write and endorse the plan.
- h) Submit to Council for approval, implementation, publishing and communicating the plan.
- i) Review and monitor the plan.

2 (i) Structure of the Committee

The Advisory Committee for Transportation of Disabled Persons will become the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Members are appointed by Town Council.

Frank Siebert	Chair/Town Councillor
Patricia Simone	Co-Chair
Carole Therriault	Member
Andre Belair	Member
Diane Godin	Member
Diane Poulin	Member
Marcel Violette	Member
Stanley Brothers	Member
Ron Turcotte	Member
Marc Dupont	Resource Person/Town Treasurer
Marcel Babin	Resource Person/Handi-Trans Bus Operator

People with disabilities are encouraged to submit their names to sit on the Committee.

The Committee will ensure there will be adequate representation from the Disabled Community. Consultation with people with disabilities when conducting assessments will be mandatory.

Section 3

3. Accessibility Achievements

Historical Review

Historically, the Town of Kapuskasing has had no formal process in place to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities accessing its services. As issues arose, or barriers were identified, they were removed at the time with available resources or dealt with during planned renovations or rebuilds. In most occurrences, the removal of barriers in the past has been a result of the Town of Kapuskasing meeting legislative requirements including those of the Provincial Building Code.

As part of the Municipality's commitment to create a caring, safe community, the Municipality has already implemented a number of initiatives to make the community and our local government and services more accessible.

ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2006 PLAN

Commitment: The Municipality of Kapuskasing will commit to maintaining the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Action: A member of council appointed to ensure the AAC meets on a regular basis.

Status: Complete

Commitment: Over the next 12 month period, the Accessibility Advisory Committee along with volunteers from the disabled community will review all individual buildings, structures or facilities owned or rented by the Town of Kapuskasing, as identified in the plan, in order to identify additional barriers to people with disabilities and make recommendations to Council to make structures barrier free.

Action: Accessibility Audit Checklist developed to suit our needs. People with disabilities completed a physical assessment of the Civic Centre.

Status: The following recommendations were submitted to Council for implementation.

PARKING

- . Signage in front of the building to be erected indicating handi-cap access

and handi-cap parking available at side of building. UNRESOLVED

. Increase the number of accessible handicap parking spaces from 2 to 3 designated spots. **RESOLVED**

. Install new signage by these parking spaces indicating handicap parking spaces. UNRESOLVED

ENTRANCES

. A full handrail should be erected by the side entrance, eliminating the chain. UNRESOLVED

. Signage by the chair lift inside the building, indicating the hours of operation. UNRESOLVED

. Bell (used to signal that someone needs assistance to use the chair lift) to be relocated outside of the offices into the hallway. UNRESOLVED

PATH OF TRAVEL

. Fire extinguisher by the gym door to be relocated to behind the post. RESOLVED

LIGHTING

. Increase lighting in all hallways. IN PROGRESS

WASHROOMS

. Add additional coat hooks no more than 1200 mm above the floor in the accessible washrooms. UNRESOLVED

. Install L shape grab bar in accessible washroom on main floor. UNRESOLVED

. Add paper dispenser in mens washroom downstairs at a lower level to accommodate people using wheelchairs. UNRESOLVED

. Insulate hot water pipes under the sink in the accessible washrooms. (Flexible piping testing for heat, should not cause burning) RESOLVED

SIGNAGE

. Install International Accessibility Sign by side entrance, exterior of building.

TELEPHONE

- . Wall phone to be lowered to accommodate people using a wheelchair.

RESOLVED

Commitment: Over the next 12 month period, the Accessibility Advisory Committee along with volunteers who live with disabilities reviewed all individual buildings, structures or facilities owned or rented by the Town of Kapuskasing, as identified in the plan, in order to identify additional barriers to people with disabilities and make recommendations to Council to make structures barrier free.

Action: People with disabilities completed a physical assessment of the following municipally owned and operated services. For details of recommendations made, please contact The Town of Kapuskasing.

- Airport
- Arena
- Eastview Ball Park
- Curling Rink
- Donnat Brousseau Pool
- Public Library
- Riverside Water Park
- Sports Palace
- Kap Boat Launch

Status: Recommendations submitted to council. On-going

Section 4

4. Addressing Barriers

- a) The Town of Kapuskasing will use the Government of Ontario barrier-free design guidelines that promote accessibility for people

with disabilities to buildings that the Municipality buys, leases, builds or significantly renovates. The barrier free design guidelines used will ensure the level of accessibility of Municipal government buildings is at least as good as or better than the level of accessibility required by the Building Code Act.

- b) Council will accommodate the employment-related accessibility needs of people with disabilities who apply for jobs with the municipal government, as required by the Human Rights Code.
- c) The Town of Kapuskasing will accommodate the accessibility needs of its employees as required by the Human Rights Code.
- d) The Town of Kapuskasing will make sure that its managers and supervisors have access to information necessary to meet the government's duties to employees with disabilities.
- e) The Town of Kapuskasing will review by-laws passed since January 2000 to identify barriers to programs, practices and services
- f) The municipality will take into account how accessible any equipment, supplies or services to be bought by the municipality, for use by itself, its employees or the public, is to people with disabilities.
- g) The municipality will examine municipal services for barriers.
- h) The municipality will look into enforcing new penalties for counterfeiting and misuse of Disabled Person Parking Permits.
- i) The municipality will look at increasing the minimal penalty for misuse of designated parking under municipal by-laws.
- j) The municipality will recommend accessibility requirements when granting business licences.

Section 5

5. Making the Plan Available

The Town will make this Plan available on Kapuskasing's web site, and have hard copies available at the Municipal office, in both official languages. A public notice advising the general public that the plan is available for their perusal and review will be issued.

The Municipality invites you to submit your comments on the Plan as these will help the Municipality in making our Community, local government and services more accessible.

How to Contact Us

By Email: bmajor@ntl.sympatico.ca
Clerk

By Mail: Marc Dupont
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By Fax: 705-337-1741

By Phone: 705-337-4257 (Marc Dupont)
705-337-4254 (Barbara Major)

Section 6

6. Conclusion

Over the next 12 month period, the Accessibility Advisory Committee along with volunteers living with disabilities will make the following committments:

- . Review snow removal policies,
- . Language and proper terminology policies,
- . Handi-trans bus booking system

and will make recommendations to Council to make structures and policies barrier free.

Making the Town of Kapuskasing an accessible Town will be an ongoing process. The Municipality actively engages in identifying and removing barriers - particularly physical barriers. With the requirements of ODA, the Municipality has a better understanding about the range of disabilities and is better equipped to focus on other barriers.

REVISED: February 15, 2007 by the AAC.

