

REPORT ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE/ FIRE COMMITTEE

DATE: December 9, 2019 **REPORT NO:** RFD-C-11-2019

SUBJECT: Approval of the 2019 Annual Progress Report of the 2018-2022 Multi-

Year Accessibility Plan

CONTACT: Joanne Scime, Clerk

OVERVIEW:

Based on legislated requirements, this report will approve the Township's Annual Progress Report as it relates to our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan which was last approved in 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

- That, Report RFD-C-11-2019, dated December 9, 2019, regarding "Approval of the 2019 Annual Progress Report of the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, be received; and,
- 2. That the 2019 Annual Progress Report of the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, attached as **Schedule A** hereto, be approved and posted on the Township's website.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Through its involvement in the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC), the Township will provide its residents and visitors to West Lincoln:

- (1) With "Quality of Life" by respecting and responding to the diverse generational needs by addressing the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in their by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services therefore improving the quality of life for residents and visitors of West Lincoln.
- (2) With "Good Governance and Leadership" through developing and implementing accessibility plans that will identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities in key areas of daily living.

BACKGROUND:

The Township's Accessibility Policy requires that we must prepare and adopt a multi-year accessibility plan and follow up with annual progress reports (see extract from policy below).

4.0. MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN AND ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS

The municipality will draft and make public a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to address compliance requirements of O. Reg. 191/11. The Multi-Year Plan will replace the municipality's Annual Accessibility Plan and will be made public

by January 1st. The municipality will also draft and make public annual progress reports outlining steps taken to meet the goals and objectives of the Multi-Year Plan. The Multi-Year Plan Progress Report will be made public by January 1 of each year.

CURRENT SITUATION:

On November 14, 2019 the attached annual update of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Township of West Lincoln was forwarded and approved at the JAAC level and is now being presented to Council for their review and approval.

Once approved, the plan must be posted on the Township's web site as a means of making it available to the public, as required by legislation and the Township's Accessibility Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs relating to accessibility requirements are put forward as part of the annual Budget, as required.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

Portions of this report were reviewed with specific staff members.

CONCLUSION:

The attached progress report, which is a requirement as noted above in bold, provides an update on the status of our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

It is recommended that the attached Annual Progress Report for the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be approved and posted on the Township's website.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Sime Scime, Clerk

Approved by:

Bev Hendry, CAO

[&]quot;The Township of West Lincoln will be a community that values our heritage, preserves our environmental and natural resources, fosters entrepreneurial spirit and provides excellent quality of life"



LINCOLN, WEST LINCOLN, PELHAM, THOROLD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE & GRIMSRY

Town of West Lincoln 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Annual Update 2019

November 18, 2019

Introduction

The Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee of Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Grimsby (JAAC) serves its municipalities by providing advice, guidance and input into ensuring continued compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and resulting regulations. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was proclaimed by the Province of Ontario in 2005. The legislation aims to develop, implement and enforce accessibility standards to achieve full accessibility in the Province by 2025.

The JAAC and its member municipalities have already initiated all compliance requirements as outlined in it's first Multi-Year Accessibility Plan of 2012-2017. This Annual Update demonstrates how the JAAC is building on the successes of the first Multi-Year Plan and how accessibility remains a priority in municipal planning and activity. The Update addresses activities and deliverables specified in the Information and Communication, Employment Standards, Transportation Standards and Design of Public Spaces Standard and outlines an action plan for meeting these regulations.

The JAAC will also initiate more outreach with the public and private sector to ensure the community at large is educated about the AODA. Further, the JAAC will continue to celebrate successes with its Accessibility Award. In the coming year, the JAAC will reassess all municipally owned public spaces through an accessibility audit process to ensure they are fully accessible by 2025.

Once approved by Council, legislation requires this Update to be available to the public and in alternate format upon request.

The JAAC will continue to communicate regularly with its staff contacts and will provide Council with ongoing updates.

The JAAC wishes to thank its administrative contacts for continuing to provide essential leadership in this process as well as assisting us in meeting our objectives. The JAAC hopes to continue to provide valuable information and resources for the municipalities as they continue complying with the AODA.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephen Barker

Ms. Stephen Barker Chairperson Ms. Donna L. Herrington, Consultant to the JAAC

The Herrington Group Ltd

Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation: General Regulations

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11- 13 (1-2) Organizations that prepare organizational emergency procedures, plans and public safety information and make that information available to the public, shall provide this information in an accessible	Communication Plan: 1.1. Annual review of communication plan for informing public of alternate format availability. Ensure notice is posted on website, provided in printed materials and in all other corporate communications.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Public informed of availability of alternate formats upon request
format or via accessible communication supports as soon as practicable upon request	Establish Alternate Format Service Provider - Vendor of Record: 2.1. Review Vendor of Record agreement. Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for Alternate Format Service Provider - Vendor of Record if needed	January 1, 2018	Vendor of record established for alternate formats -T-Base Communications
	2.2. Review of RFP responses; selection of Vendor of Record2.3. Review internal procedures for processing requests for alternate formats	January 1, 2018	

Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation: General Regulations

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11-27 (1-4) Individualized workplace emergency response information must be provided upon request and in accessible formats when need is articulated. Individualized workplace emergency response information shall be reviewed when: employee moves to different	Emergency Response Plan Template 1.1 Annual review of Emergency Response Planning Tool and update as needed 2. Communication Plan: 2.1 Inform Staff of Emergency	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021 January 1, 2018 –	 No updates required at this time Annual reminders sent to current and
location in organization, employee's overall accommodation needs or plans are reviewed and when employer reviews general emergency response policies.	Response assistance on an annual basis	January 1, 2021	new staff

Integrated Accessibility Standard: General Regulations

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Status	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11- 3 (1-4) Accessibility Policy Develop Accessibility Policy to address compliance with Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation. Policy can be one or more documents. Sections have varying compliance Due Dates.	Policy: 1.1. Annual review and update of Accessibility Policy. Communicate any changes to staff	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accessibility Policy is up to date
O. Reg. 191/11- 4 (1-4) Accessibility Plan To outline compliance plan in regards to Integrated	Plan Development: 1.1. Develop Multi-Year Accessibility Plan	July 2017	 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2018-2022 has been drafted, approved by Council and posted for public review
Accessibility Standard Regulation. Must be posted on website upon completion.	 Present Plan to Council for adoption/approval 	September 2017	public review
Annual Progress Report required. Complete Plan update required every 5 years	 Post Multi-Year Accessibility Plan on website and make available to public 	December 31, 2017	
	 1.4. Prepare and make public annual progress reports on Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 	December 31, 2018	
O. Reg. 191/11- 5 (1-3) Procurement Procedures Procurement Procedures must incorporate accessibility criteria. If not "practicable" organization must provide explanation upon request	Review of Procurement Procedures: 1.1. Annual review of Accessibility criteria/ Policy and/or Procedures in purchase agreements	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accessibility criteria considered in all new purchasing

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 – 19 (1) & (4) Public Libraries Library Board shall provide access to or arrange for the provision of access to accessible materials where they exist	Accessible Materials 1.1 Annual review of communication plan for informing public of alternate format availability.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Alternate formats of library materials available
O. Reg. 191/11 – 19 (2) & (4) Library boards shall make information about the availability of accessible materials publicly available and shall provide the information in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports upon request	Communication Plan: 1.1. Annual review of how public is informed of available accessible material 1.2. Clerk to liaise with Library Board to facilitate connection with Vendor of Record – Alternate Format Service Provider to assist in providing alternate formats upon request	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021 January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Library board informed of Vendor of Record. JAAC provides input and consultation on compliance issues upon request.
O. Reg. 191/11 – 19 (3) & (4) Library boards may provide accessible formats for archival materials, special collections, rare books or donations	Accessible Archival Materials 1.1 Annual review of how information is provided in alternate format upon request 1.2 Copy and enlarge materials as needed; provide alternate formats upon request	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021 January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Alternate formats available upon request

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 – 14 (1-7) Websites* As of January 1, 2021, websites and website content must conform to W3C WCAG 2.0	1.1. Confirm that municipal website conforms with requirements of W3C WCAG 2.0 Level AA	January 1, 2021	Town website is W3C WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliant
Level AA other than: i. Success criteria 1.2.4 Captions (Live) and ii. Success criteria 1.2.5 Audio Descriptions (Prerecorded)	1.2. Include accessibility provisions/criteria in purchase of service contracts for web-based applications	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accessibility criteria considered in all new purchasing

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 – 7 (1-6) Training Employers shall provide training regarding Integrated	Training Plan Development: 1.1. Annual review and update of AODA training module	January 1, 2021 January 1, 2018	Refresher training developed and provided to Town staff
Accessibility Regulation and Ontario Human Rights Code requirements to all employees and volunteers, persons who participate in developing organizational policy and other persons who provide goods,	1.2. Provide refresher training to all staff, contractors and volunteers according to Accessibility Policy. Provide all new staff with AODA Training module	January 1, 2019	
services or facilities on behalf of the organization. Training to take place as soon as practicable and shall include any changes to policies on an ongoing basis. Record keeping of training provided and number of participants is required	Review Accessible Documents Guide and provide training in accessible document production to municipal staff and volunteers	January 1, 2019	
O. Reg. 191/11 – 11 (1-4) Feedback Mechanism Ensure accessible feedback mechanism in relation to areas covered under Integrated Accessibility Regulation. Every obligated organization shall notify public about availability of accessible formats and communication supports.	Feedback Mechanism Update 1.1. Annual review of Feedback mechanism.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	No updates to feedback mechanism at this time. Mechanism is in place.

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 – 22 Accommodation –Recruitment Notice shall be provided to employees and public about the	Policy: 1.1. Annual review of Employment Policy and Procedures.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accessibility Policy addresses Employment Standard requirements
availability of accommodation for applicants with disabilities during recruitment process.	Annual review of procedure for recruitment accommodations including notice in advertisements	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	
	1.3. Refresher procedural training regarding providing applicant accommodation for staff responsible for recruiting, selecting and hiring staff as well as staff who would participate in the recruitment process	January 1, 2019	Refresher AODA training (which includes Employment Standard requirements) provided to all current and new staff
O. Reg. 191/11 – 23(1-2) Accommodation – Selection Accommodation shall be provided to applicants selected to participate in assessment or selection process,	Policy: 1.1. Annual review of Employment Policy and Procedures - Selection Process.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accessibility Policy addresses Employment Standard requirements
upon request. Suitable accommodation shall be provided in manner that takes applicant's accessibility needs.	1.2. Refresher procedural training regarding providing applicant accommodation for staff responsible for recruiting, selecting and hiring staff as well as staff who would participate in the selection process	January 1, 2019	Refresher AODA training (which includes Employment Standard requirements) provided to all current and new staff

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 - 24 Accommodation Notice - New Employees Successful applicant shall be informed of availability of	Policy: 1.1. Annual Review of Letter for all Offers of Employment	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accessibility Policy addresses Employment Standard requirements
accommodation and shall provided with accommodation policy when making offer of employment	1.2. Annual Review of Employment Offer Checklist to ensure that all successful applicants/new employees are aware of: Municipal Accessibility Policy, Municipal Accommodation Policy and Accommodation Planning Procedures and Municipal Emergency Response and Evacuation Support Procedures.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accessibility Policy addresses Employment Standard requirements
O. Reg. 191/11 – 25 (1-3) Accommodation Notice - All Employees Accommodation policy shall be	Policy: 1.1 Provide updates to employees as needed	January 1, 2018 - January 1, 2021	Updates provided to staff as needed
provided to all employees and any updates shall be provided whenever changes are made	Refresher procedural training provided to supervisors regarding any policy updates	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Refresher AODA training (which includes Employment Standard requirements) provided to all current and new staff

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 – 26 (1-2) Alternate formats shall be provided to employees with disabilities upon request including information needed to perform employee's job, information generally available in workplace. Employer will consult employee making request when determining suitability of accessible	Policy and Procedure: 1.1 Remind Municipal staff of availability of alternate format vendor of record 1.2 Annual review of alternate format request procedure and form.	January 1, 2018 January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	 Staff informed of vendor of record Clerk staff manage alternate format requests
O. Reg. 191/11 – 28 (1-2) Documented Accommodation Plans shall be provided to employees with disabilities	Accommodation Planning Tool: 1.1. Annual review of Accommodation Planning Form 1.2. Annual review of employee	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021 January 1, 2018 –	Accommodation Planning tool in place; updated as needed Review of accommodation plans
O. Day 404/44 00 /4 0)	Individualized Accommodation Plans as required	January 1, 2021	provided on a case-by-case basis with relevant employees
O. Reg. 191/11 – 29 (1-3) Documented Return-to-Work process shall be established including disability-related accommodations	Return-to-Work Accommodation Planning Tool: 1.1. Annual review of Return-to- Work Process and use Accommodation Planning Form	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Accommodation Planning tool in place; updated as needed
	1.2. Annual review of employee Individualized Return-to-Work Accommodation Plans as required	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Review of accommodation plans provided on a case-by-case basis with relevant employees

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 – 30 (1-2); 31 (1-2); 32 (1-2) Accessibility Throughout Employment Life-Cycle Performance Management, Career Development and advancement and Redeployment processes shall	Performance Management: 1.1 Communicate requirement to provide accommodation throughout employment life cycle to all directors, managers, supervisors and staff as appropriate	January 1, 2018	Accommodation provided throughout the employment life cycle
include accessibility accommodation and provided in alternate format	1.2 Provide refresher procedural training for directors, managers, supervisors and staff as appropriate	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Updates to training or procedures provided as necessary
	Career Development and Advancement: 2.1 Annual review of accommodation procedures for employee training	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Updates to training or procedures provided as necessary
	Redeployment: 3.1 Annual review of Process Checklist for employee transfers and redeployment	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Updates to training or procedures provided as necessary
	3.2 Provide refresher procedural training for directors, managers, supervisors and staff as appropriate	January 1, 2019	

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 – 7 (1-6) Training for Employment Process Employment Training (i.e. Ontario Human Rights Code, accessible recruitment and screening, employment policy and accommodation planning training). Training to take place as soon as practicable and shall include any changes to policies on an ongoing basis. Record keeping of training provided and number of participants is required	Training Plan : 1.1 Refresher training in the Ontario Human Rights Code and in the Employment Standard	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Refresher AODA training (which includes Ontario Human Rights Code requirements) provided to all current and new staff

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
O. Reg. 191/11 - 12 (1) Organizational Material in Alternate Format: Except as otherwise provided, every obligated organization shall upon request provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities: (a) in a timely manner that takes into account the person's accessibility needs and in consultation with the person making the request.	Alternate Format Provision: 1.1. Annual review of Accessible Style Guide 1.2. Provide refresher training in creating accessible templates and other accessible communication refresher training as needed.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021 January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	Updates to training or procedures provided as necessary

Election Accessibility Plan

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
MEA, s.12.1(1)(2)(3), s. 41(3), s.45(2)	 Customer Service – all Elections staff will be trained in Accessible Customer Service specific to their roles and responsibilities including: The Ontario Human Rights Code as it pertains to people with disabilities Allowing the use of service animals and assistive devices Allowing the use of support persons Procedures for temporary disruptions Procedures for emergency evacuation Feedback process Availability of voting ballot and/or voting process in alternate formats Voting location accessibility Proxy voting and curb-side voting 	October 19, 2018	Training was developed and provided to all Election staff in accordance with the AODA and the Elections Act

Elections Act Requirements: Election Accessibility Plan

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
MEA, s.12.1(1)(2)(3), s. 41(3), s.45(2)	2. Voting Places and Methods - all voting places will be physically accessible to voters including entrances/exits, queuing areas, voting booths and washroom areas. Voting locations will be assessed through a checklist.	October 19, 2018	Voting places and methods were accessible in accordance with the AODA and the Elections Act
	2.1 Voting ballots will be available in large print and Braille2.2 Voting accessibility measures will be advertised to the public		
	3. Assistance to Candidates – Candidate information and forms will be made available in alternate formats upon request.	October 19, 2018	Candidates were provided accessible materials upon request
	3.1 All candidate speaking engagements (Candidate debates and meetings) held in a municipal facility will be held in a physically accessible location.	October 19, 2018	All candidates' activities were provided in an accessible location

Elections Act Requirements: Election Accessibility Plan

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
MEA, s.12.1(1)(2)(3), s. 41(3), s.45(2)	4. Recruitment and Staffing 4.1 Accommodation will be provided to Elections staff as needed. Emergency evacuation planning will be provided to elections staff as needed.	October 19, 2018	Accommodation was provided to elections staff as required
	 5. Feedback Process: 5.1 Feedback regarding election accessibility will be received by feedback form, written letter, email or other electronic format or telephone or TTY service 5.2 The municipality will take the person's disability into account when responding to feedback 5.3 The availability of the feedback process will be posted to the municipality's website. 	October 19, 2018	Feedback process was established and provided in accordance with AODA and Elections Act

Elections Act Requirements: Election Accessibility Plan

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
MEA, s.12.1(1)(2)(3), s. 41(3), s.45(2)	6. Feedback Process: 6.1 Feedback regarding election accessibility will be received by feedback form, written letter, email or other electronic format or telephone or TTY service 6.2 The municipality will take the person's disability into account when responding to feedback 6.3 The availability of the feedback process will be posted to the municipality's website.	October 19, 2018	Feedback process was established and provided in accordance with AODA and Elections Act
	 7. Post Election Report - The Report will include: 7.1 Barriers experienced during election process and prevention solutions for future elections 7.2 Voter feedback 7.3 Best practices for future consideration 7.4 The report will be posted to the municipality's website and made available in alternate formats upon request 	January 1, 2019	Post-election report was prepared and submitted as required

Public Outreach: Removing Barriers to Accessibility

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
Public Outreach	Initiate and implement education programs and events and develop training materials for the Municipality to meet its ongoing AODA compliance obligations.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	JAAC liaises with Age-Friendly Committee
	Liaise with other committees of Council to address accessibility concerns including: a. Age-Friendly Committee b. Thorold BIA c. Active Transportation Committee d. Library Board	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	
	Present to Council ongoing updates on Accessibility matters	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	JAAC to attend Council regularly to provide updates on accessibility issues.
	Liaise with other Accessibility Advisory Committees to leverage accessibility efforts across the Region	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	JAAC to host joint meeting with other AAC's to discuss regional accessibility issues.

Public Outreach: Removing Barriers to Accessibility

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
Public Outreach	5. Establish an Accessibility Award to in recognition of municipal, public and private sector efforts to improve accessibility in our community. These awards will be given out once (1x) per council term.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	We Are Accessible Campaign initiated by JAAC. Six recipients in first year. Campaign continues in second year.
	6. Liaise with public and private sector organizations and interest groups including: a. maintaining a social media presence b. speaking to organizations about accessibility c. educating them how to welcome people with disabilities into their business or workplace and d. providing information about the AODA and its regulations.	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	JAAC maintains a social media presence on Facebook, publishes articles about accessibility in newsprint media and responds to public enquiries.

Built Environment: Removing Barriers to Accessibility

Regulation/Requirement	Action Required by Municipality	Timeline	Comments
Accessibility of the Built Environment – municipally owned facilities	All municipally owned facilities must meet the Design of Public Spaces Standard accessibility requirements	January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021	JAAC to audit municipally owned facilities according to schedule set by staff to determine level of accessibility. Report will outline remedial action necessary to ensure compliance with the Design of Public Spaces Standard of the AODA.