

**For Information**

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**REPORT TITLE:**     **Accessibility Planning Program Update - February 17, 2022**

**FROM:**             Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner  
                              of Corporate Services

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**OBJECTIVE**

To provide an update on the activities undertaken by the Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program and the Accessibility Advisory Committee, subsequent to the November 18, 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Accessibility Advisory Committee and Accessibility Planning Program have been involved in various activities during this period, which are categorized as follows:
    - Consultation and compliance support provided to Region of Peel Programs.
    - Participation in community events.
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**DISCUSSION**

**1. Background**

The main objective of the Region of Peel's Accessibility Planning Program (the Program) is to ensure that Regional programs, services and facilities continue to be inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities. In order to accomplish this objective, the Program works collaboratively with all Regional departments and the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (the Committee).

**2. Activity List**

**a) Consultation and Compliance**

**i) 2021 Accessibility Compliance Report**

- The Region of Peel filed its Accessibility Compliance Report with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (the Ministry) by the December 31, 2021 timeline.
- As indicated at the November 18, 2021 Committee meeting, the Region of Peel reported compliance to all the questions posed in the report, except to the one pertaining to accessible websites and web content.
- The Ministry has responded and stated that it will be contacting organizations that require longer term compliance plans to meet the requirements for accessible websites this year.

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### **ii) Accessibility at Peel Intranet Hub**

- One of the initiatives coming out of the Interdisciplinary AODA internal working group is to elevate accessibility at Peel.
- In partnership with Marketing & Communications, the Office of Culture & Inclusion and Service Excellence & Innovation, an Accessibility Hub will be launched on the Region of Peel's intranet portal.
- A related presentation is being provided at the February 17, 2022 AAC meeting.

### **iii) Accessibility for *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) Corporate Training Refresh**

- Given the ongoing focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, the AODA Corporate training refresh has been scheduled for the end of February 2022.
- A phased in approach will be considered for different departments taking into consideration organizational capacity and priorities.
- The new Accessibility at Peel Intranet Hub will be used to market the training and for information sharing.

### **iv) Site Plan Review Process**

- As requested at the November 18, 2021 Committee meeting, Region of Peel staff met to review the current site plan review process and feasibility of introducing a subcommittee process.
- A full report titled, "Site Plan Review Process" is listed on the February 17, 2022 Committee agenda.

### **v) 2021 Annual Accessibility Status Report**

- Work is underway for the preparation of Region of Peel's Annual Accessibility Status Report 2021.
- A requirement under the AODA is an annual report on the measures taken in the Region of Peel to remove barriers and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities as well as provide an update on the actions taken to implement the 2018-2025 Region of Peel Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.
- Internal consultations are occurring with various departments to help inform the report.
- A draft of the Annual Accessibility Status Report 2021 will be shared with the Committee at a future meeting.

## **b) Participation in Community Events**

### **i) 2021 International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

- On December 3, 2021 the Region of Peel commemorated International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- The day was acknowledged through a virtual lunch and learn for staff.
- The theme for the lunch and learn was "I am More than My Disability" and consisted of sharing videos and having an intimate dialogue around mental health and how stigma continues to be a barrier that many people with visible and invisible disabilities continue to face.

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- Event survey results indicate that we are meeting our objectives of education and increased understanding and that staff are appreciative of these learning opportunities and willing to take action to better support people with disabilities.

### **CONCLUSION**

This report summarizes the activities and consultations that the Accessibility Planning Program (the Program) has been involved in, together with participation of members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (the Committee). The Committee and the Program continue to engage in activities that support the Region of Peel's primary accessibility objective of ensuring Regional programs, services and facilities are inclusive and accessible for all persons with disabilities and respond to the evolving community needs, including during times of a pandemic.

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