

For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Accessibility Planning Program Update – April 21, 2022**

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

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 February 17, 2022 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 Regional Programs; and
 - Upcoming events and observances.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

The 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 (AAC).

2. Activity List

a) Consultation and Compliance

i) Accessibility at Peel Intranet Hub

- On February 15, Peel launched Accessibility Peel, the Region's intranet accessibility hub for staff.
- The site offers a one stop shop for all things accessibility in Peel and offers related information, policies and resources.

ii) 2021 Annual Accessibility Status Report

- As required under the Accessibility for *Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, internal departments have been consulted on their accessibility accomplishment and initiatives for 2021.

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- A full report titled, “Annual Accessibility Status Report 2021” is listed on the April 21, 2022 Committee agenda.

iii) Age-Friendly Planning Project

- Seniors represent one of the fastest growing age groups in the Region of Peel.
- Accessibility is a key consideration as we plan for our growing aging population.
- To prepare for this growing demographic, new policies related to health, the built environment and age-friendly planning have been adopted as part of the Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 27.
- Part of this work includes an Age-friendly Built Environment Assessment which will assist the Region to evaluate the current-state of neighbourhoods with regards to age-friendly built environments.
- More information on this initiative will be provided at a future AAC meeting.

iv) Metrolinx Accessibility Virtual Open House

- On March 2, 2022, Metrolinx hosted its Accessibility Virtual Open House.
- Objectives of the open house:
 - To provide an update on accessibility achievements,
 - To share information on key planned initiatives for next year,
 - Seek feedback to ensure services and projects reflect the community’s needs, and
 - Provide an opportunity for input into their accessibility planning efforts.
- To view a video recording of the session or get more information on Metrolinx’s accessibility initiatives visit Metrolinx website.

b) Upcoming Events and Observance

i) Ability Summit

- Save the date for this year’s Microsoft Ability Summit: May 10, 2022.
- Registration will open up in March.
- Visit [MSAbilitySummit](https://msabilitysummit.com) website for more information.

ii) Abilities Expo Toronto

- Abilities Expo Toronto is scheduled for May 13 and 14, 2022.
- This year the expo will resume as an in-person event held at the International Centre, Mississauga.
- For more information and to register visit [Abilities Expo Toronto](https://abilitiesexpo.com) website

iii) Red Shirt Day and National AccessAbility Week

- Red Shirt Day falls on June 1, 2022, during National AccessAbility Week. This year National AccessAbility Week will be held from Sunday, May 29 to Saturday, June 4.
- Red Shirt Day is an initiative promulgated by Easter Seals Canada to promote National AccessAbility Week.
- Canadians across the country are encouraged to observe National AccessAbility Week and to wear red on Red Shirt Day to show their support for people living

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with disabilities, celebrate the achievements and contributions of persons with disabilities, and pledge their commitment to helping create an accessible and inclusive Canada.

- More information on how the Region of Peel will be acknowledging these important observances will be shared as planning gets underway.

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 (AAC) since February 17, 2022. The AAC 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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