

**For Information**

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**REPORT TITLE:**      **Accessibility Planning Program Update – September 15, 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 June 16, 2022 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Region of Peel 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;
    - Upcoming events and observances.
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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 (AAC).

**2. Activity List**

**a) Consultation and Compliance**

**i) Conducting Accessible Virtual Meetings Guidelines**

- As we embrace flexible work, virtual meetings have become part of the new norm.
- The Region of Peel leverages Microsoft Teams, a messaging and collaboration app that allows everyone in the organization join in conversation and work together more effectively.
- In order to ensure an inclusive meeting experience, it is important that accessible meeting practices are embraced.

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- To this end, the Conducting Accessible Microsoft Teams Meetings: Best Practices & Resources was launched.
- These guidelines will assist staff to carry out accessible and inclusive meetings.
- The guidelines have been posted to Peel's intranet site including, the Accessibility Peel portal.

### **ii) Municipal Elections 2022**

- Elections will be held in the Region's local municipalities on October 24, 2022.
- Unlike in previous years, candidates interested in running for Regional Councillor should register at the appropriate local municipal Clerk's office.
- Each local municipality is responsible for ensuring that their locations, materials and processes are accessible for person with disabilities.
- Attached as Appendix I, II and III are the municipal election accessibility plans for the Town of Caledon and the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga.
- More information regarding the 2022 Ontario Provincial Election can be found on the Elections Ontario website.

### **iii) AAC Recruitment of Community Members**

- The Region of Peel will be recruiting community members to sit on the AAC for the 2022-2026 term.
- Community member committee appointments will take place after Regional Councillors have been appointed to committees.
- Call for applicants will be undertaken in late 2022.
- The process for community member appointments to Peel's Committees and Boards was revised in 2022.
- A report with a list of all qualified applicants will be submitted to Regional Council Policies and Procedures Committee (PPC) by the Program Director.
- PPC will review the Program Director's report (with related application materials), establish an interview panel, and select top candidates to be interviewed.
- The interview panel will conduct the interviews and recommend candidates to Regional Council for approval.
- All current AAC members are welcome to reapply for appointment.
- In accordance with the new process, the AAC's Terms of Reference were revised to remove reference to specific limits on the number of terms a community member may serve on a committee.
- Regional Council may give preference to qualified applicants who have not had a previous opportunity to serve over those who are seeking re-appointment after serving two consecutive terms.

## **b) Upcoming Events and Observances**

### **i) Treat Accessibly**

- Peel will once again be supporting the Treat Accessibly Initiative.
- The Treat Accessibly initiative aims to promote accessible trick-or-treating for children with disabilities through the use of an accessible trick-or-treating lawn sign. It encourages the removal of barriers to create an inclusive and accessible Halloween experience.

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- In support, the Region of Peel will be launching a social media campaign to create awareness and encourage participation.
- For more information or to participate, visit the Treat Accessibly website at [www.treataccessibly.com](http://www.treataccessibly.com).

### ii) International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- As declared by United Nations, December 3<sup>rd</sup> marks International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD).
- The day aims to promote the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities and to take action for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.
- As is customary practice, the Region of Peel will be commemorating IDPD through an internal and social media campaign to educate, raise awareness and encourage support for persons living 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 Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) since June 16, 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.

## APPENDICES

Appendix I – Town of Caledon Accessible Election Policy

Appendix II – City of Brampton Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

Appendix III – City of Mississauga 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

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