

**For Information**

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**REPORT TITLE:     Update on the Use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access**

**FROM:                 Kathryn Lockyer, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Services**

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## **OBJECTIVE**

To provide an update on the Region's use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access.

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- On July 11, 2019, Regional Council endorsed the implementation of the Dynamic Symbol of Access (DSA) at Region of Peel facilities.
  - The DSA is an improvement to the current International Symbol of Access (ISA) as the image is more defined and depicts a person in movement.
  - As legislation does not mandate the use of the current ISA on pavement markings for accessible parking spaces, all existing symbols of access on Regional facilities were to be replaced with the DSA over a period of two years.
  - The Region of Peel was informed by the City of Brampton that the use of the DSA on pavement markings within Brampton is prohibited due to a City by-law that specifically governs ground symbol guidelines. The City of Brampton adheres to the use of the ISA in this area.
  - Regional staff met with City of Brampton staff to advocate for the use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access and discussed options moving forward, including an exemption to the City by-law for Regional facilities.
  - On May 13, 2020 City of Brampton Council approved the use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access on Region of Peel facilities located in Brampton.
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## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

At its meeting on June 20, 2019, the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee (the Committee) received a delegation and accompanying report recommending that the Region of Peel adopt the use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access (DSA) as an alternative to the currently used International Symbol of Access (ISA). The DSA is an improvement to the current ISA as the image conveys movement and action and places more emphasis on a person's ability (attached as Appendix I). However, there is certain legislation such as the *Highway Traffic Act* that requires the use of the ISA, therefore the Committee recommended that the use of the DSA be adopted in areas where the ISA is not mandated, including on pavement markings. On July 11, 2019, Regional Council approved the use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access (DSA) at Regional facilities, where the ISA is not mandated.

## **Update on the Use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access**

### **2. City of Brampton Use of the Dynamic Symbol**

In the fall of 2019, the Region of Peel was informed by the City of Brampton indicating that the Region could not use the DSA on pavement markings for Regional facilities located within the City of Brampton. The City of Brampton's Traffic By-Law specifically governs ground symbol guidelines, including the use of the International Symbol of Access for pavement markings. This matter needs to be further reviewed by City of Brampton staff and their AAC before any changes are made.

On November 8, 2019, Region of Peel staff met with City of Brampton staff to discuss the use of the DSA at Regional facilities within the City of Brampton, including the possibility of an exemption to the City by-law for Regional facilities as an interim solution until such time that decisions can be made by the City of Brampton regarding their current by-law.

On March 10, 2020, City of Brampton Accessibility Advisory Committee considered a report regarding the use of the DSA. Raj Chopra, Region of Peel AAC Chair and Juliet Jackson, Director of Culture and Inclusion for the Region of Peel delegated at this meeting to advocate for the use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access and requested an exemption to the City of Brampton Traffic By-Law for the use of the DSA at Regional facilities located in the City of Brampton, as an interim solution. City of Brampton Accessibility Advisory Committee voted in favour of the exemption to allow the use of the DSA on pavement markings for Region of Peel properties located within the City of Brampton.

In June 2020, the City of Brampton formally communicated their Council's decision to permit the Region of Peel to use the DSA on Regional facilities. A related communication from the City of Brampton is included on the agenda.

Thus far the Region of Peel has used the new Dynamic Symbol on 74 of the 146 parking spaces located in the city of Mississauga and the Town of Caledon. The remaining symbols, including within the city of Brampton, will be completed before the end of 2020, weather permitting.

The Region of Peel continues to look for opportunities to leverage the use of the new DSA and recently incorporated it into accessible seating signage within the cafeteria located at 10 Peel Centre Drive as well as in various print materials.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Dynamic Symbol of Access is an improvement to the current International Symbol as the image shows movement and places emphasis on a person's ability versus the disability. It is a visual representation of the Region's commitment to accessibility and inclusion by reframing the way people with disabilities are viewed. The Region of Peel will continue to implement the Dynamic Symbol of Access in areas where the International Symbol is not mandated, including on pavement markings at Regional facilities located in Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix I - Dynamic Symbol of Access (DSA)**

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## **Update on the Use of the Dynamic Symbol of Access**

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Juliet Jackson, Director, Culture & Inclusion, Ext. 6741, [juliet.jackson@peelregion.ca](mailto:juliet.jackson@peelregion.ca).*

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*Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:*

Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Polsinelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a stylized "P".

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N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer