

**For Information**

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**REPORT TITLE:**      **Accessibility Planning Program Update – November 19, 2020**

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

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**OBJECTIVE**

To provide an update of the activities undertaken by the Region of Peel Accessibility Planning Program and the Accessibility Advisory Committee subsequent to the September 17, 2020 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting (the Committee).

**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;
    - Participation in community events.
  - This report also highlights 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.

**2. Activity List**

**a) Consultation and Compliance Support**

**i) Update to the AAC Terms of Reference**

- In the fall of 2019, Regional Council revised the process to appoint community members.
- This change ensures consistency for the appointment of community members to all applicable Regional Council committees through a standardized process.
- It also allows for Council involvement earlier in the proceedings.
- The process to appoint public members to a committee is set out in the committee's terms of reference.
- The most notable change as it pertains to the AAC terms of reference is that the AAC Interview Panel shall now include the AAC Chair and/or Vice-Chair.

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- The terms of reference for the appointment of public members to the AAC has been revised accordingly and is attached as Appendix I.

### **ii) Recruitment - Town of Caledon AAC Representative**

- The AAC application form and public notice are under review to ensure that it is consistent with current legislation and updated AAC terms of reference.
- A new application will be developed to ensure an accessible recruitment process.
- Recruitment and interview processes are also being revised in light of the current pandemic situation to allow for virtual recruitment.
- The Committee will be notified once advertisement goes public.

### **iii) AODA Compliance – Accessible Websites**

- The AODA compliance for accessible websites is January 1, 2021.
- In order to meet this time, the Region of Peel has taken many steps to make our website accessible, including the revamping of our website with various accessibility features.
- A full report titled “Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act – Website Compliance” is listed on the November 19, 2020 AAC agenda.

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

### **i) World Alzheimer’s Day**

- On September 21, 2020 the Region of Peel observed World Alzheimer’s Day.
- The Region of Peel commemorate this day through a story on Pathways, the Region’s intranet site.
- The aim was to educate staff and raise awareness about Alzheimer disease and challenge the stigma and discrimination associated with this disease.

## **c) Upcoming Events and Observances**

### **i) 2020 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)**

- The Region has set aside December 2, 2020 to commemorate this day.
- We will be working with the AAC Event Planning Working group to assist with planning this observance.
- More information will be shared as it becomes available.

## **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) since September 17, 2020. 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.

**APPENDICES**

Appendix I – AAC Terms of Reference

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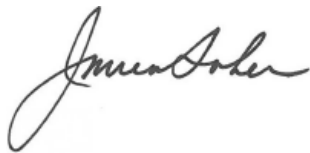
*For further information regarding this report, please contact Juliet Jackson, Director, Culture & Inclusions, Ext. 6741, [juliet.jackson@peelregion.ca](mailto:juliet.jackson@peelregion.ca).*

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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, appearing to read "J. Baker", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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J. Baker, Chief Administrative Officer