

City of Welland
2011 Accessibility Plan

Submitted by

Russ Findlay, Chair
City of Welland
Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each Municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

The objectives of this report are to:

1. Describe accomplishments of the 2010 Accessibility Plan.
2. List the facilities, policies, programs, practices, and services that the AAC will review in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Describe how the AAC will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Description of the City of Welland

The City of Welland is an urban/rural municipality located in the Regional Municipality of Niagara between the City of Port Colborne to the south and the Town of Pelham to the north. The City is located along the Welland Canal at the midpoint between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, in the Province of Ontario, Canada. The City boasts some of the most beautiful rose gardens in the province and is known as the “Rose City”. The City is recognized for its parkland and green spaces located throughout the City.

The City of Welland was incorporated in 1917 and since that date has annexed the former Crowland Township. Today the City of Welland encompasses 21,260.5 acres, or 33.219 square miles 8,603,805 ha or 86,039 sq. kms.

The City’s population in 2010 is approximately 50,000 people.

City Departments:

- Financial & Corporate Services
- Planning & Development Services
- City Clerk & Legal Services
- Human Resources
- Engineering, Public Works & Transportation Services
- Fire & Emergency Services
- Parks, Facilities Recreation & Cultural Services

The Accessibility Advisory Committee

Members are selected to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee through the recruitment selection process established by Council. The Terms of Reference adopted by Council specify that eleven (11) voting members will be selected to serve on the AAC:

- a. The majority of members (minimum 6) must be people with disabilities. These committee members shall be representative of different types of visible and invisible disabilities noted in the *ODA, 2001*, such as persons with physical (visual, speech, hearing, deaf, brain injury, use of a wheelchair); cognitive (intellectual impairments); perceptual (learning disability); and mental health disabilities.
- b. A maximum of (5) members who may not have a disability:
 - One member of the City Council;
 - One member (parent/guardian) representing children with disabilities;
 - Two members-at-large, interested in issues related to persons with disabilities.

Members will be appointed by City Council for a four-year term.

Voting Members:

Mr. Russ Findlay, Chair
Mr. Geoff Eden, Vice-Chair
Mr. Gordon Misener
Ms. Maureen Todd
Ms. Dianna Kit Mete
Mr. Saro Stranges
Ms. Jane Thompson
Ms. Marsha Cousins
Mr. Stephen Quesnelle
Councillor Rick Alakas

Staff resources:

Christine Mintoff, City Clerk & Legal Services
Mike Mantesso, Planning & Development Services
Gary Lapierre, Human Resources
David Ferguson, Engineering, Public Works &
Transportation Services
Alfred Stockwell, Engineering, Public Works &
Transportation Services
Stephen Hanns, Welland Public Library
Richard Morwald, Parks, Facilities, Recreation &
Cultural Services

Barriers that were addressed in 2010

BARRIER	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
Inaccessible bus stops with few amenities.	SRM report – implement bus stop improvements.	Complete.
Legislative requirements to announce stops on transit routes.	Phase 2 - Install an automated announcement system.	Nearing completion.
The Welland Public Library website is not barrier-free.	Redesign the library website.	Complete.
The washroom facilities at the Market square are inaccessible.	Renovate or install new washrooms.	Complete.
People with a hearing disability have difficulty interacting with City Hall.	Install TextNet communication system.	Complete.
Local Business symposium: Accessibility Standards for Customer Service	Host a symposium to inform local businesses about their legislated obligations under the ADA.	To be hosted in November 2010.
Deficient curb-cuts and sidewalks.	Replace deficient sidewalks and curb-cuts.	Complete as targeted in 2010 plan.

Barriers that will be addressed in 2011

BARRIER	RECOMMENDATION	LEAD DEPARTMENT	BUDGET ESTIMATE
Inaccessible unused railway crossing at Broadway and Kilgour Streets.	Install a continuous concrete sidewalk at this location.	Engineering, Public Works & Transportation Services (Traffic Division)	\$30,000 ⁰⁰
People with Alzheimer's, Autism and other disabilities sometimes wander and fall victim to the elements, accidents or predators.	Implement Project Lifesaver	Parks, Facilities Recreation & Cultural Services (Facilities)	\$7,000 ⁰⁰
Physical barriers exist in City facilities.	Conduct a Facility Accessibility Audit to identify barriers and establish priorities.	Parks, Facilities Recreation & Cultural Services (Facilities)	\$50,000 ⁰⁰
Inaccessible pathway connecting Barron Street and Woodcroft.	Install new asphalt surface.	Parks, Facilities Recreation & Cultural Services (Parks)	\$5,000 ⁰⁰

\$92,000⁰⁰

Notes: Total AAC funding request for 2011 - \$92,000

The implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2011 Accessibility Plan is subject to budget approval.

Communication of the plan

The AAC recommends that:

1. Copies of the plan can be obtained at the City Hall, Welland Library, Holy Trinity Church, and Welland Transit Terminal.
2. Copies of the plan are available in alternative formats.
3. A copy of the plan is available on the City Website.
4. A notice regarding the availability of the plan is posted in the Civic Corner of the Tribune.
5. Notices regarding the availability of the plan are placed on all Welland Transit vehicles.