



The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2019 – 2023

Township Council Accessibility Policy C-PD-03
Administrative Procedure A-PD-03
Township Council Accessible Customer Service Policy C-GG-21
Township Council Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy C-GG-25

TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES - MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

General Information

The Township of Muskoka Lakes is located in the District Municipality of Muskoka and formed in 1971. At 782 square kilometres, it is geographically the largest of six lower tier municipalities in Muskoka. The Township has a permanent population of 6,588.

The Township offers standard municipal services, operating from an administrative centre located at 1 Bailey Street, Port Carling, Ontario, P0B 1J0. It maintains 12 community centres, 10 fire stations, 2 arenas, 3 works yards, 2 libraries, 20 parks, 10 beaches, 5 recreational trails, 37 public docks/water access points and 19 public boat ramps.

It is the Township's policy (C-PD-03) to make any new or significantly renovated facility accessible.

Consultation

With a population of 6,588, the Township is not required to have an accessibility advisory committee, although comments from the public were originally sought through newspaper advertising. Currently, public input is sought through notice on the Municipal website and the Township Office and other municipal facility bulletin boards.

Purpose

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities. The act provides for their involvement in identifying, removing and preventing barriers so they can fully take part in the life of the province.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), lays out the framework for the development of province wide mandatory standards on accessibility in all areas of daily life. To achieve the purpose of the AODA, Accessibility Standards were developed and implemented by Regulation and apply to five important areas being; Customer Service (Ontario Regulation 429/07, Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, now including in Ontario Regulation 191/11, Integrated Accessibility Standards), Employment, Information & Communications, Transportation and Built Environment, (Ontario Regulation 191/11, Integrated Accessibility Standards).

For purposes of Ontario Regulation 191/11 (Integrated Accessibility Standards), the Township of Muskoka Lakes is described as a large designated public sector organization. A designated public sector organization means every municipality, a large designated public sector organization means a designated public sector organization with 50 or more employees and an obligated organization means the Government of Ontario, the Legislative Assembly, a designated public sector organization, a large organization and a small organization to which the standards in Ontario Regulation 191/11 apply.

Municipal Accessibility Plans

Annual Accessibility Plans

Pursuant to the ODA, each year every municipality shall prepare an accessibility plan and make it available to the public. The plan shall address the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services. The first year of compliancy by municipalities was 2003. Municipalities are also required to either seek advice from an accessibility advisory committee or consult with persons with disabilities and others. Pursuant to Section 12 of the ODA, the Township is not required to establish an accessibility advisory committee as the Township's population is less than 10,000. As a result, the Township prepared annual Accessibility Plans through to 2012.

You will note that on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, the ODA will be repealed by the AODA. (Please note that Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the ODA have been repealed effective December 1, 2015.)

Multi-Year Accessibility Plans

Pursuant to Ontario Regulation 191/11, designated public sector organizations shall establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan. The plan is to outline the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under the Regulation. The organization is to post the accessibility plan on their website, provide the plan in an accessible format upon request, and review and update the accessibility plan at least once every five years. Designated public sector organizations shall prepare an annual status report on the progress of measures taken to implement the strategy, including steps taken to comply with the Regulation, post the status report on their website, and provide the report in an accessible format upon request. Designated public sector organizations shall establish, review and update their accessibility plans in consultation with persons with disabilities and if they have established an accessibility advisory committee, they shall consult with the committee. Pursuant to Section 29 of the AODA, the Township is not required to establish an accessibility advisory committee as the Township's population is less than 10,000.

Through the development of this plan, barriers within the organization have been identified. Below is a list of the identified barriers, and anticipated steps to remove them. As this is a multi-year plan, projects have been identified which are beyond the formally approved budget process. As such, the projects may be amended, added to or removed. The needs of the municipality will continue to evolve which may shift identified priorities. Third party funding may become available in the future, which could adjust the timelines of the identified projects. Projects will continue to be reviewed and updated through the annual budget process as well as the annual report.

To meet compliance requirements of Ontario Regulation 191/11 under Section 4 - Accessibility Plans, the Township approved a 2014-2018 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan in 2014. Annual Accessibility Status Reports were prepared for 2014 to 2018. A review and update of the multi-year accessibility plan has been conducted and approved in 2019, which is now entitled the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Definitions

“accessibility standard” means an accessibility standard made by regulation under section 6 of the AODA.

“accessible formats” may include, but are not limited to, large print, recorded audio and electronic formats, braille and other formats usable by persons with disabilities.

“barrier” means anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice.

“communication supports” may include, but are not limited to, captioning, alternative and augmentative communication supports, plain language, sign language and other supports that facilitate effective communications.

“designated public sector organization” for purposes of Accessibility Standards for Customer Service - means the Legislative Assembly and the offices of persons appointed on the address of the Assembly, every ministry of the Government of Ontario, every municipality and every person or organization listed in Schedule 1 or described in Schedule 2 to Ontario Regulation 429/07.

“designated public sector organization” for purposes of Integrated Accessibility Standards - means every municipality and every person or organization listed in Column 1 of Table 1 of Ontario Regulation 146/10 (Public Bodies and Commission Public Bodies — Definitions) made under the *Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006* or described in Schedule 1 to Ontario Regulation 191/11.

“disability” means,

- (a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,
- (b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability,
- (c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- (d) a mental disorder, or
- (e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

“large designated public sector organization” means a designated public sector organization with 50 or more employees.

“large organization” means an obligated organization with 50 or more employees in Ontario, other than the Government of Ontario, the Legislative Assembly or a designated public sector organization.

“obligated organization” means the Government of Ontario, the Legislative Assembly, a designated public sector organization, a large organization and a small organization to which the standards in this Regulation apply.

“organization” means any organization in the public or private sector and includes,

- (a) the Government of Ontario and any board, commission, authority or other agency of the Government of Ontario,
- (b) any agency, board, commission, authority, corporation or other entity established under an Act,
- (c) a municipality, an association, a partnership and a trade union, or
- (d) any other prescribed type of entity.

“provider of goods or services” means a person or organization to whom Ontario Regulation 429/07 applies.

Accessibility Plan Working Group

The working group for the accessibility plan is comprised of the Township Leadership Team (CAO, Treasurer, Clerk, Director of Planning, Development Services Coordinator, Director of Public Works, Fire Chief, and Human Resources/Health & Safety Specialist). The Team will review the plan on an ongoing basis and collaborate on updates annually. Comments and suggestions from the public are encouraged.

Operational Review

Township structures and facilities were inspected during November 2008 to identify deficiencies regarding barrier free accessibility and to consider work or alterations, which could be undertaken to improve the situation.

For the purposes of this accessibility plan, identified barriers and recommendations on how to remove them will be addressed in general terms. Detailed information is available at the Township of Muskoka Lakes Office.

Maintenance of Accessibility Elements Procedures

As required under the Design of Public Spaces Standard (Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment), the Township of Muskoka Lakes has procedures for dealing with preventative and emergency maintenance of accessible elements in public spaces and for dealing with temporary disruptions when accessible elements are not in working order.

The procedures for Departments that maintain accessible elements in public spaces are as follows:

(a) Apply best practices in the preventative maintenance of accessible elements with periodic checks, such as annual inspections, or as deemed necessary, after storms or events that might affect accessible elements, or as part of any reports of vandalism or complaints.

(b) Apply best practices in the emergency maintenance of accessible elements with active response once notified.

(c) Repair as soon as possible and practical.

(d) Provide public notification of temporary disruptions. The notice of maintenance or disruption of accessible elements will follow the same principles as the notice of temporary disruption laid out in the Township's Accessible Customer Service Policy.

Achievements of Removing Barriers – Schedules “A-1” and “A-2”

See Schedules “A-1” and “A-2” attached to this plan to view a listing of achievements by the Township to remove barriers.

Actions to Remove Barriers – Schedule “B”

See Schedule “B” attached to this plan to view a listing of future actions by the Township to remove barriers.

Contact Information

This plan is available at the Township of Muskoka Lakes Municipal Office at:

1 Bailey Street
Port Carling, Ontario
POB 1J0
(705)765-3156
www.muskokalakes.ca

Public input on this plan may be submitted to the Township of Muskoka Lakes at the same address as above.