



## Minutes

### Accessibility Advisory Committee

April 20, 2022

Electronic Meeting

Members: L. Fortnum, L. Gold, D. Hamilton, K. Hill, S. Palombo,  
V. Spatafora, A. Tocco, T. Vegh, S. Wollin

Staff: K. Bacani-Angus, J. Burgis, K. Chislett, V. Choe, C. Clark,  
L. Davies, J. Dolly, S. Doyle, K. Farahani, A. Griepsma,  
M. Herder, N. Kelly, T. Kirkwood, C. Martin, V. Navolskyy,  
G. Santos, J. Silva, E. Straughan

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#### A. Call to Order

Regional Councillor Vegh called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and made the following remarks:

“We acknowledge the land we are meeting on today is the traditional territory of many First Nations, including the Chippewas of Georgina Island and the Mississaugas of the Credit. These lands are now home to many diverse Indigenous peoples.

We also acknowledge that York Region falls under Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaties with several Mississauga and Chippewas First Nations.”

#### B. Disclosures of Interest

None

**C. Presentations**

**C.1 Status Update on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Web Requirements**

Committee received the presentation by Andrea Griepsma, Manager, Digital Design and Public Relations, Corporate Communications, Corporate Services and Neal Kelly, Program Manager, Digital Communications, Corporate Communications, Corporate Services.

Committee recessed at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened at 5:20 p.m.

**C.2 York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Recruitment Process**

Committee received the presentation by Kim Bacani-Angus, Acting Program Manager, Accessibility Strategies and Partnerships, Community and Health Services and Valentyna Navolskyy, Senior Policy Analyst, Accessibility Strategies and Partnerships, Community and Health Services.

**D. Deputations**

None

**E. Communications**

None

**F. Other Business**

**F.1 Update on Accessibility Activities**

Lois Davies, Manager, Social Policy and Accessibility, Strategies and Partnerships Branch, Community and Health Services provided updates as follows:

**F.1.1 2021 Accessibility Report Resubmission**

The AODA legislation requires York Region to submit an accessibility report every two years. The Region's accessibility report was filed in December 2021 indicating non-compliance under the Information and Communications Standard.

Further to Item C.1 on today's agenda, staff will provide updates to the province of the Region's ongoing commitment to meeting compliance and intend to provide an update to Committee Members at the June YRAAC meeting.

### **F.1.2 York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee National AccessAbility Week Forum Subcommittee**

This year, National AccessAbility Week will take place from May 29 to June 4, 2022. The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee will, again, host an AAC professional development session on June 1, 2022 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The volunteers who will participate in the planning subcommittee for this year's professional development session are:

- Vito Spatafora
- Laurie Fortnum
- Lindsey Gold
- Scott Wollin

### **F.1.3 National AccessAbility Awareness Week Event for York Region Staff**

Based on the success of last year's internal National AccessAbility Awareness Week Lunch and Learn session hosted by the Accessibility Unit, York Region will be hosting a similar event this year. This year's celebration will be organized and hosted by York Region staff volunteers, many of whom are part of the Region's new Community of Belonging for Staff with Disabilities. Communities of Belonging are employee resources groups made up of staff with lived experience, who support the unique needs of their respective community.

### **F.1.4 2022 AODA Review and Standards Development Committee Reports**

The AODA requires that the legislation be regularly reviewed. Every three years, a reviewer is appointed by the government to assess the effectiveness of the AODA and its standards.

Recently, the Health Care Standards Development Committee and the K-12 Standards Development Committee submitted their final recommendations to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility for consideration. The final recommendations report for the proposed Health Standard and K-12 Education Standard are now posted online.

**F.1.5 Accessibility Standards Canada: Technical Committee for a Model Standard for the Built Environment – Accessibility**

The Federal government is working on making Canada barrier-free by January 1, 2040 under the Accessible Canada Act. This involves identifying, removing and preventing barriers in federal jurisdiction in priority areas such as employment, the built environment, information and communications, and transportation. This Act established Accessibility Standards Canada to help create a barrier-free Canada.

Accessibility Standards Canada are currently developing five standards and have established respective technical committees for:

- Model Standard for Built-Environment
- Emergency egress (exit)
- Employment
- Outdoor spaces
- Plain language

Tracy Kirkwood, Supervisor, Property Services Project Management Office, Property Services Branch, Corporate Services Department, who is the Region's AODA Lead for the Design of Public Spaces, has recently accepted a position on the Federal Technical Committee for the Model Standard for the Built Environment with Accessibility Standards Canada.

Once complete, this standard will be adopted by the National Building Code and then be presented to each Province for adoption into Provincial Building Codes.

**F.1.6 Next York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of this committee is on June 22, 2022 at 4 p.m. in a virtual format.

**G. Adjournment**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.