



STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No: CS-2023-16

August 14, 2023

From: Anne Leduc – Director of Community Services

RE: 2023 North Glengarry Accessibility Plan

Recommended Motion:

THAT Council of the Township of North Glengarry receives Staff Report No. CS-2023-16; and

THAT Council of the Township of North Glengarry adopts the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Township of North Glengarry.

Background / Analysis

The purpose of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers so that people living with disabilities will have more opportunities to participate in everyday life.

The AODA mandates that each municipality prepare an Accessibility Plan to outline the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers. The AODA sets out the roadmap for an accessible Ontario by 2025.

Under the AODA, the municipality is required to report compliance with the Province by December 31, 2023. The AODA also provides that each municipality shall have an Accessibility Committee to review and comment on the plan. This review is mandatory every second year. At the July 24, 2023 meeting, the SDG Joint Accessibility Committee, made up of a representative from each local municipality, reviewed the Township of North Glengarry's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

The attached 2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines how the Township will continue to remove barriers and improve accessibility to our Township's goods, services and facilities over the next two years. The plan builds on our accomplishments introduced through our previous Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

This Multi-Year Plan only examines customer service; information and communications; employment; and design of public spaces standards. Transportation is excluded from our plan due to the Township's relatively small size and the lack of transportation services provided.

Initiatives found within Appendix A of the draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan were either a requirement outlined within the given standard or an initiative that can further promote accessibility within the Township of North Glengarry as well as measures in which the Township did or can go above and beyond the basic requirements to ensure that the Township is at the forefront of accessibility initiatives. Appendix A will be updated and amended as additional work is undertaken or additional regulatory information is obtained.

In accordance with the AODA and the Building Code, it is mandatory that all Township of North Glengarry facilities will be compliant with the relevant requirements by 2025. Staff is pleased to report that it has met this goal but there will always be opportunities for improvement, especially when it comes to our built spaces and customer services.

As required by legislation, the Plan will be updated biennially so Council should expect to see another report in 2025.

Alternatives:

Option 1 – Recommended – That Council approves this resolution.

Or

Option 2 – Not recommended – That Council does not approve this resolution.

Financial Implications:

Any outstanding and new issues required to be compliant with the AODA will be brought forward prior to the annual budget review.

Attachments & Relevant Legislation:

Relevant Acts and Legislations:

- Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) – December 14, 2001 – <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01o32>
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) – <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05a11>
- Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation 191/11– <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/110191>

Attachments:

- Presentation to SDG Joint Committee - Attached
- 2023 North Glengarry Multi-year Accessibility Plan - Attached

Others consulted:

SDG Joint Accessibility Committee

Kimberley Goyette – Director of Finance / Treasurer

Reviewed and approved by:

Sarah Huskinson, CAO/Clerk