



## **STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Report No: CS-2023-18**

**September 25, 2023**

From: Anne Leduc – Director of Community Services

RE: Confirmation of North Glengarry representative and alternate for the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee

---

### **Recommended Motion:**

THAT Council receives Staff Report No. CS-2023-18; and

That Council authorizes staff to advise the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry that Mrs. Melissa Dubeau from Alexandria will serve as representative and that Mrs. Brenda Palmer from Alexandria will serve as alternate representative for the Township of North Glengarry on the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee, replacing Mr. Roderick Tyo.

### **Background / Analysis:**

The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11* (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers to allow their full participation in life.

To this end, the ODA mandates that each municipality prepares an accessibility plan. The plan and updates outline the history of initiatives to:

- identify, remove, and prevent barriers;
- operational and decision making reviews;
- completed initiatives and the targets; and
- actions to be taken by the municipality.

The municipality recently filed its AODA compliance report after Council approved the North Glengarry 2023 Multi-year Accessibility Plan during its meeting on August 14, 2023.

In order to ensure quorum for the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Council for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry approved the appointment of alternates for the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee at their August 28, 2023 meeting.

As a result, the Committee will now consist of one representative and one alternate representative from each of the lower tier municipalities within Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, with the majority of the Committee experiencing some form of disability. Renewal of the Committee members usually occurs after each municipal election.

During the July 2023 SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee, it was suggested to find individuals with a non-visible disability or someone who represents an individual with a non-visible disability as this is becoming a more prevalent clientele.

Coincidentally, North Glengarry's representative, Mr. Roderick Tyo, has advised Township staff that he would like to retire as North Glengarry's representative on the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee.

With this information in hand, the municipality is proposing that two individuals be appointed as representative and alternate representative to the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee. Mrs. Melissa Dubeau has a family member that suffers from a rare genetic condition that affects her physically and intellectually. Mrs. Brenda Palmer has a family member with autism. Both have extensive experience navigating government services and advocating for individuals with non-visible disabilities.

Staff would like to thank Mr. Tyo for his long-standing position as the Township's representative on the SDG Accessibility Advisory Committee and his contributions to ensure that the municipality continually strived towards being more accessible.

#### **Alternatives:**

Option 1 – Recommended – That Council authorizes staff to advise the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry that Mrs. Melissa Dubeau from Alexandria will serve as representative and that Mrs. Brenda Palmer from Alexandria will serve as alternate representative for the Township of North Glengarry on the SDG Accessibility Committee, replacing Mr. Roderick Tyo.

Or

Option 2 – Not recommended – That Council directs staff to propose another individual(s) as North Glengarry's representative or alternate representative on the SDG Accessibility Committee.

#### **Financial Implications:**

Accessibility improvements are funded through the Township's Operating Budget GL 1-4-1200-6450. This year the proposed 2023 Operating Budget contains \$20,000 for targeted repairs or renovations that improve accessibility in its facilities.

Notwithstanding the \$20,000 in targeted accessibility funding, the Township's staff uses every opportunity available to incorporate improvements for accessibility whenever they undertake renovations, repairs, or construction projects. Accessibility improvements far surpass \$20,000 in value as the costs for these additional improvements are absorbed under each project's budget.

**Attachments & Relevant Legislation:**

Relevant Legislation - *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11* - <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05a11>

SDG Council Staff Report – Annual Update to the County's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - <https://pub-sdgcounties.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=3398>

North Glengarry 2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan - <https://www.northglengarry.ca/en/town-hall/resources/Accessibility/2023-Multi-Year-North-Glengarry-Accessibility-Plan-Update-FINAL.pdf>

**Others Consulted:**

Kimberley Goyette – Director of Finance

---

Reviewed and Approved by:  
Sarah Huskinson, CAO/Clerk