

TOWNSHIP OF CHISHOLM

MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2009

Submitted to: Mayor and Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

The preparation of a Municipal Accessibility Plan is a requirement for local governments in Ontario under the provisions of the Ontario with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) of the Province of Ontario. Municipalities have a legal obligation to prepare annual accessibility plans and to make these plans available to the public.

This initial Accessibility Plan sets out the framework for the Township of Chisholm to meet its obligations under the ODA and to ensure that our plan reflects local needs, concerns and priorities related to the improvement of opportunities for people with disabilities.

This plan examines all aspects of municipal operations, including by-laws, practices, facilities, programs and services and will identify steps to be taken over time to remove identified barriers and prevent any new ones.

2. DEFINITION OF A DISABILITY

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, (ODA), 2001 and the Accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities Act (AODA), 2005 use the definition that appears in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

A 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.

3. MUNICIPAL JURISDICTION PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN

Municipality: Corporation of the Township of Chisholm

Address: 2847 Chiswick Line
RR#4
Powassan, ON
P0H 1Z0

Contact: Linda Ringler, Clerk-Treasurer

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4. MUNICIPAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Township of Chisholm is predominantly a rural community located south of the City of North Bay. This rural settlement is characterized by development along the network of township roads, and along the shoreline of Wasi Lake.

The municipal building, fire hall, and public works garage are situated within the Township of Chisholm.

5. POPULATION

The population of the township is 1236 with the heaviest proportion being the working age.

6. CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

In preparation of a municipal accessibility plan, each municipality is required to consult with people with disabilities for advice and recommendations.

Target Group

The groups to be targeted are the general public, seniors and disabled persons.

Activities

In order to prepare the Accessibility Plan it is necessary that we consult with those people most affected. Seniors and disabled people are the stakeholders in the preparation of this plan and have been surveyed in order to determine the types of barriers which exist and the recommendations proposed to eliminate these barriers. In addition, each municipal department manager will review their method of operation and their facilities and make recommendations for the preparation of an action plan to deal with the removal of any barriers which may exist.

Time Period Activity Occurred

During the month of August, 2004, a survey was circulated via the township's bi-monthly newsletter asking specific questions of disabled persons and seniors.

Summary of Information Collected Through Consultation

We received no response from our newsletter advertising. In addition to this, a report was presented by the township's Chief Building Official with respect to investigations and inspections done on all municipal buildings. The following concerns were identified from the comments received:

- Entrances to municipal building need to be made accessible to the disabled;
- Washrooms need to be modified in order to be accessible to the disabled.

7. INITIATIVES CONDUCTED AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW

This is the first accessibility plan prepared on behalf of the municipality. Previous accessibility issues or concerns were presented to Council and dealt with as directed by Council. New construction activities were dealt with by the Building Department for conformance with the Ontario Building Code. The working group provided questionnaires to all township residents specifically targeting those with disabilities and seniors, conducted inspections on all municipal buildings and interviewed the various department managers for information or concerns related to accessibility.

8. BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

A series of recommended actions and time frames for removal of barriers has been identified:

BARRIERS & TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL/PREVENTION	TIMELINE SHORT 0-1YR. MED. 1-3 YRS. LONG 3-5 YRS.
The entrances to the municipal building need to be made accessible to the handicapped	Construction work is proposed to alleviate this problem.	Medium
Parking for the disabled	A handicapped parking place was constructed in 2007	Completed
Modifications are required to a washroom to make it accessible to the handicapped.	Construction work is proposed to alleviate this problem.	Medium
Public Works Garage	Due to accessibility issues with the building layout, persons with disabilities can visit the Municipal Office and staff will contact the Public Works Supervisor to assist them. Persons can also call the P.W.S. at 724-5530.	Completed
Chisholm Volunteer Fire Department	Due to accessibility issues with the Fire Dept. building, persons with disabilities can enter the building via the Municipal Office. Municipal staff will contact the Fire Chief for them.	Completed

9. DECISION MAKING REVIEW

This accessibility plan will go to Council for adoption and for implementation.

10. MONITORING PROGRESS & ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLANS

Senior staff will review the plan annually to ensure that the goals are being accomplished.

11. SUMMARY

The preparation of a Municipal Accessibility Plan is a requirement for local governments in Ontario under the provisions of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA). Council is responsible for the adoption and implementation of this plan and to ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities with respect to this act. This accessibility plan is structured to be updated as new barriers are addressed and as preventative measures are put in place. Further consultation with the public and with the groups and agencies dealing with accessibility issues will ensure the goals and objectives of this plan are achieved and that barriers to accessibility are removed

While there was no input from the public or from persons with disabilities in the preparation of this plan, the plan is an active working document and the municipality should continue to strive to have greater input into their annual reviews.

A series of action plans to deal with the concerns or barriers identified and a time frame within which corrective measures should be targeted is included in this plan. In addition, any future building, renovations and construction activities on municipal properties will take into consideration accessibility concerns.

The Municipal Accessibility Plan is available for review at the municipal office.

Any comments on this plan are welcomed and should be addressed to the municipal office in Chisholm to the attention of Council.