

GENERAL INFORMATION
FOR
MEMBERS OF A COCHRANE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Province of Ontario introduced the Ontarians with Disabilities Act in 2001 in support of the rights of all persons with disabilities to enjoy equal opportunity and participate fully in life in this Province. As the number of persons with disabilities is expected to increase as the population ages, this initiative sets out the requirements for municipalities to participate in the overall plan.

Municipalities in Ontario having a population of not less than 10,000 are required to establish and continue an accessibility advisory committee and the council of every municipality having a population of less than 10,000 may establish or continue an accessibility advisory committee.

The Committee members, who are required by majority, to be comprised of persons with disabilities, is to report to Council on an annual basis on the effectiveness of the plan

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The membership of the Cochrane Accessibility Advisory Committee shall consist of the following nine (9) members:
 - Two (2) members of Council
 - One disabled client and the Manager from Integration Communautaire Cochrane Community Living
 - One member from the management of the Villa Minto
 - The Cochrane representative from the Red Cross
 - One representative from the Medical Profession
 - One representative from the Ininew Friendship Centre
 - One disabled person representing the public
 - Non-voting resource persons shall include Municipal Administration and Front Line Program Staff, as required.
 - The Mayor shall appoint a Chairperson

RECRUITMENT

3. At this time the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cochrane is circulating letters to the noted organizations for their submission of a representative to sit on the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

DUTIES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4. Pursuant to the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, S.O. 2001, Chapter 32, the Committee shall provide advice and assistance in the preparation of an Accessibility Plan, for presentation to Council in respect of such planning and operational matters affecting accessibility services in the Cochrane area, which shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - (a) be familiar with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act,
 - (b) solicit input from disabled persons and other stakeholders and the community,
 - (c) develop a communications plan for the public,
 - (d) review a variety of options or scenarios for the expansion of accessibility services, the removal of barriers within municipal by-laws, policies, programs and services, and formulate an action plan,
 - (e) provide accessibility recommendations to council on existing and future municipal buildings and renovations, as well as municipal transit,
 - (f) make recommendations to Council based on issues noted above.

MEETINGS

5. Meetings of the Cochrane Specialized Transit Committee are held in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 171 Fourth Avenue, and will be called by the Chair at their discretion and as required.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR BOARD MEMBERS

6. Among the skills required by board member are: good communications skills, written and verbal, experience in policy making and budgeting, familiar with accessibility and transit needs of the community, dispute resolution experience, and volunteer service to the community.

TERM OF THE APPOINTMENT

7. The term of the appointment of the members of the committee will coincide with the term of Council.

If you require any additional information, please contact Pierre Demers, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Cochrane at 272-4361.