

# Accessibility Plan

2015



APRIL 2015

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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Accessibility Plan is created by the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Town of Cochrane, a stakeholder group representing persons with disabilities. The Committee's mandate is two-fold: to advise Council on the Accessible Taxi Service, and to provide recommendations for improving accessibility in the community.

The accessibility plan is intended to address existing barriers to persons with disabilities and to prevent new barriers from being established. Under the AODA, all municipalities are required to prepare annual accessibility plans as part of their regular planning process.

The plan, as prepared with the guidance of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, describes the measures the Town has taken in the past and will take during the current year to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Town of Cochrane, including employees and members of the community at large.

The establishment of an annual accessibility plan will have positive outcomes on the community as a whole. The primary beneficiaries of barrier removal and barrier prevention exercises are people with disabilities. However, a positive result of accessibility planning is that all people benefit.

The Accessibility Plan for 2015 provides a review of the barriers identified in the municipality, but also provides the progress to date in removing and preventing these barriers. The yearly review of the Accessibility Plan provides an opportunity for the Municipality to acknowledge successes, re-evaluate timelines and costs, research options, and identify new barriers.

We are pleased to report that several of the identified barriers have been successfully addressed as a result of this process.

## **B. AIM**

The aim of this plan is to describe the measures the Town of Cochrane has taken in previous years and will take during the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities who use the municipal facilities and services.

## **C. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this plan are to:

1. Report on the measures the Town has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities.
2. Describe the measures in place to ensure that the Town assesses its acts, by-laws, regulations, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility for people with disabilities.
3. List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services that the Town will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describe the measures the Town intends to take in the coming years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
5. Describe how the Town will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

## **D. OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING**

The Corporation of the Town of Cochrane supports the right of persons of all ages with disabilities to enjoy equal opportunity and to participate fully in the life of the Town and, as such, confirms its commitment to:

- The continual improvement of access to all municipally-owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities, including employees and the community at large.

- The participation of people with disabilities in the development and review of its annual accessibility plan (Goal: Accessibility Advisory Committee with more than half of the Committee comprised of individuals with disabilities, or in the alternative, members from agencies representing persons with disabilities).
- The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.
- The adoption of principles such as Universal Access that result in an inclusive approach to accessibility.

## **E. ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP**

### Accessibility Advisory Committee

Councillor Jane Skidmore-Fox  
 Councillor Claude Bourassa  
 Gisele Brunet, Ininew Friendship Centre  
 Dale Leavens, Community member  
 (Vacant), Community member  
 Terry Lyn Williams, ICCCL  
 Melissa Foy, Red Cross  
 Helga Dragus, MICS Group  
~~Alana Scichilone, MICS Group~~

### Resource Persons

Jean-Pierre Ouellette, CAO  
 Richard Vallee, Director of Protective Services

## **F. DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN OF COCHRANE**

The Town of Cochrane is located in the heart of the Great Clay Belt of North Eastern Ontario. The town site was laid out in 1908 on the Old Overland Packet Trail to Moosonee. Today by road, Cochrane is 720 kilometers north of the City of Toronto and 725 kilometers east of Thunder Bay.

Today the Town has a population of about 5457 and functions as a service centre for a wide tributary area. It also provides business services for residents and has a strong base in forest industries, farming, government services and now mining. All of these activities give the Town a reasonably stable economic base.

## **G. FACILITIES / OPERATIONS DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE TOWN OF COCHRANE**

The Town of Cochrane provides service and operations at the following facilities which have been evaluated for accessibility and are detailed in the attached appendix:

- Administrative Building (Townhall) - Departments: Clerk, Tax and Treasury, Provincial Offences,  
171 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Operations Building: Public Works, Engineering,  
92 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Fire Department, Building Inspection, Planning,  
23 5<sup>th</sup> Street
- Cochrane Telecom Services, Telephone and Internet Services  
153 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Tim Horton Events Centre – Recreation Services: Hall, Gym, Arena,  
Pool,  
7 Tim Horton Drive
- Cochrane Public Library, Internet Cafe  
178 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Water/Wastewater Treatment Centre  
Waterplant Road
- Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village: Rescue / rehab facility for  
polar bears, tourist attraction,  
1 Drury Road
- Municipal Airport  
Genier Road
- Child Care Centre
  - 435 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - Franco Daycare – Ecole Nouveau Regard (leased)

## **Leased Buildings**

The Municipality presently leases the Franco Daycare facility from le Conseil du District de Grandes Rivieres. This is situated in the Nouveau Regard School, which is a new facility that is accessibility compliant.

## **Tim Horton Events Centre**

As a new construction, the Tim Horton Events Centre is considered a barrier-free building, with ground-floor entrances for both stories and features an elevator.

## **Fire Department Building**

The entrance door is the main public entry to the building. Universal access has been achieved since the asphalt ramp was installed for the main entrance and first floor. The second floor is inaccessible and does provide a meeting room for groups.

## **Municipal Elections**

The Municipality has always considered wheelchair accessibility when selecting voting places to ensure that voters can vote independently. Support persons are also allowed to assist a person with disabilities, by completing the necessary appointment form available at the voting locations.

Accessible voting locations: Tim Horton Events Centre, Villa Genier, Villa Minto.

## **Web Site**

The Town's web sites are now accessible featuring a selection for increased font sizes. Following standards under the AODA, the sites will offer enhanced accessibility options to meet with the web compliance standards.

## **Budget**

Department budgets are established early in the year which assists them in meeting with implementation goals established in this plan. Procurement policies will be reviewed in 2015 to meet the new regulations.

## **Library**

The Cochrane Public Library is a fairly new building with an elevator. The current barriers listed within this plan will be reviewed with during this process.

## **Townhall**

The Town Office has barriers which are identified within this plan. It does have a wheelchair lift and one handicapped-accessible washroom available to the public.

## **Access Transit System**

The Municipality implemented a wheelchair accessible van service in the 1990's. The service hours, vehicle and its' service providers have changed during this time, improving many elements over that period of time. Today, the municipality has one licensed service provider, who is supplied a municipally-owned transit vehicle having capacity to a maximum of 2 wheelchairs and offers door to door service. The service is operated by PT Taxi. Council continues to support accessibility issues in the community. The Access Van service can also provide transportation for medical appointments to Timmins on a non-subsidized, demand basis.

In addition to the Access Transit Services, the following are transit service providers:

- Red Cross – operates a door-to-door service for medical appointments, based out of the Minto Centre
- Integration Communautaire Cochrane Community Living – owns and operates an Accessible bus for their clients. While the bus is not available for community use, it does meet the needs of ICCCL clients during the day, which adds capacity for our service.
- Ininew Friendship Centre – operates a door-to-door service for medical appointments.

## **H. CURRENT AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF ACCESSIBILITY ACHIEVEMENTS**

The following is a synopsis of activities increasing accessibility to persons with disabilities:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Result</b>
2014	Firehall Child Care Centre THEC	Moved offices to ground floor New accessible entrance New accessible main entrance
2013	Websites Second Mile Club	Accessibility options Move to accessible building
2012	Firehall 5 <sup>th</sup> Street West	Installation of asphalt ramp Accessible curbs, sidewalks
2011	New Accessible Van Firehall	Increased hours of service, capacity; New accessible washroom
2010	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	New sidewalks – access curbs
2009	12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction	Accessible curbs, sidewalks
2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Streets Reconstruction	Accessible curbs, sidewalks
2008	New accessible businesses	Canadian Tire, Chiro clinic
2007	Tim Horton Events Centre	Fully accessible recreation facility

## **I. OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

### **Proposed Barrier Identification Methodology:**

- Listing of facilities by Building Department
- Request input received from Department Heads with respect to the accessible targets to prepare a draft plan for annual review by the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The existing plan was reviewed for any required changes such as the removal of barriers, changes in target dates and the identification of any new barriers in the past year.
- Draft Accessibility Plan to be presented to the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
- Accessibility Plan reviewed by the Committee of the Whole of Council
- Accessibility Plan forwarded to Council for adoption

## **J. BARRIERS IDENTIFIED**

The following barriers were identified in the attached Appendix for municipal facilities. Municipal departments led by the CAO, will strive to address which barriers to complete each year. Facility and services that are frequently used by the public, or that significantly affect people with disabilities will be given priority.

## **APPENDIX “A” - ATTACHED**

**Appendix “A”** attached provides a comprehensive summary for accessibility issues for municipal buildings in accordance with the “Built Standard” within the legislation.

### **K. MONITORING PROCESS**

The Municipality is committed to following through with this plan and has established a proactive monitoring process.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee shall meet on a regular basis to monitor this plan to ensure that targets are achieved and to re-evaluate the plan in order to adapt to changing circumstances. The Municipality will continue its endeavour to accommodate people with disabilities wherever possible. The Municipality is required to prepare and adopt an Accessibility Plan each year, or develop a multi-year plan.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, and resulting standards, will require greater attention to accessibility issues, identifying and removing barriers, as well as monitoring the progress of the Municipality’s Accessibility Plans and efforts in the coming years.

### **L. CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Town of Cochrane is located at 171 Fourth Avenue in Cochrane. The mailing address is:

P.O. Box 490  
Cochrane ON  
P0L 1C0

If you have any questions regarding the Accessibility Plan please feel free to contact Jean Pierre Ouellette, CAO at (705) 272-4361 ext. 230 or by email at [jp.ouellette@cochraneontario.com](mailto:jp.ouellette@cochraneontario.com)

### **M. COMMUNICATION OF PLAN**

The Accessibility Plan for the Town of Cochrane will be available on our web site. Copies of the Plan will also be available at Town Hall and all of our municipal facilities.

The Town of Cochrane will make every attempt to make this plan available in accessible formats, to persons with disabilities for their perusal and review.

# Accessibility Building Survey 2015

## Proposed work for 2015

### Public works:

1. Front entrance, new doors that meets the requirement of section 3.8 of the building code.
2. Installation of ramp to remove grade

### Second Mile Club Building:

1. Install ramp on south West corner of building
2. Install Unisex barrier free washroom

### Old Library:

1. Front entrance, new doors that meets the requirement of section 3.8 of the building code.
2. Installation of ramp to remove grade

### Public Beach:

1. Provide path that meets the accessibility criteria to bring wheelchairs to beach/water