



## Staff Report

**Report Title: 2022 Accessibility Compliance Report**

**Prepared By: Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk**

**Department: Legislative Services**

**Date: Jan. 16, 2023**

**Report Number: CLK-2023-01-5**

**File Number: C11 CLK23**

**Copy to: A22 ACC**

**Attachments:**

---

**Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves the 2022 Accessibility Compliance Report, being Report Number CLK2023-01-5 prepared by Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk.

**Background:**

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was established in 2005 to address discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario. The purpose of the Act is to develop, implement and enforce accessibility standards to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities in respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures, and premises on or before January 1, 2025.

Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) was created as part of the AODA. These standards are rules that businesses and organizations in Ontario have to follow to identify, remove and prevent barriers so that people with disabilities have more opportunity to participate in everyday life. The IASR is broken down into five standards: General Requirements Customer Service Information and Communication Employment Transit Design of Public Spaces.

In accordance with the AODA and the IASR the Township of Huron-Kinloss is required to have a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan that outlines how the AODA requirements will be met and the Township's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility. Under Section 4(3) of the ISAR an annual status report outlining the progress of measurements taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan shall be prepared and posted on the Township website.

## **Discussion:**

The following outlines the progress of measurements taken to implement the Township of Huron-Kinloss Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

### **Customer Service**

- ongoing accessible customer service training with staff and volunteers which includes online standardized training for all staff,
- implemented policies and procedure to continue to offer services during office closures and staff working remotely due to the pandemic,
- the 2022 Municipal Election took place electronically allowing for an accessible option for voting,
  - e-Commerce capability added to the Township website and will launch in 2023,
  - touch screen tablets available for Council's use,
  - television screens added to Council Chambers to provide more viewing options of Council agendas and presentations.

### **Information and Communication**

- all staff received plain language training,
- digital Modernization review and road map,
- implementation of Communications Action Plan to continue to provide effective and informative communications to the community,
- community engagement strategy.

### **Employment**

- all employment opportunities were advertised with the clause that the municipality will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment, selection and assessment process to applicants with disabilities,
- integrated Accessibility Standards (O.Reg. 191/11) training as required was carried out for all new hires and Township volunteers,
- ongoing training for all staff.

### **Transit**

- the Township of Huron-Kinloss is a member of the Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART) which offers transportation services and solutions to residents who may not travel by conventional transit or taxi.

### **Public Spaces**

- new accessible entrance way at the Ripley-Huron Community Centre,
- 2 new accessible dressing rooms at the Ripley-Huron Community Centre,
- re-painting lines on steps and stairs Municipal Office, and bleachers at arena, (annually)
- Point Clark Lighthouse accessible parking lines,

- accessible video and audio tour of the Point Clark Lighthouse,
- accessible water fountains purchased and to be installed at Lewis Park and the Lucknow Sports Complex
- constructed new sidewalks on Bob Street and Havelock Street in Lucknow.

**Financial Impacts:**

Any financial impacts associated with accessibility measures that are implemented are included in the annual budget.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being open and transparent and by being age friendly, by enhancing our mobility and by being accessible to those with disabilities.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer