

Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

To provide advice to Council on an annual basis about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of the Accessibility Plan for the City of Cornwall.

POLICY

To guide the preparation, review and amendments to the Accessibility Plan for the City of Cornwall;

Conduct annual reviews of the Plan;

Act as an advisory body and review agency for Council on matters of accessibility, community input or accessibility related complaints;

Act as a review agency (sub-committee) for selected development Site Plans;

Provide broader public education campaigns and public forum workshops on the importance of accessibility in and for the community; and

Provide guidance on capital budget priorities for the City (and affiliated agencies).

AIM

To identify and study issues of concern to persons with disabilities and, on the basis of the knowledge and experience of Committee Members, to recommend action where appropriate;

Promote opportunities for self-help in the context of family and community for persons with disabilities;

Review government programs and policies affecting persons with disabilities in the community; and

Liaise with City departments and local organizations in addressing issues that are related to persons with disabilities in the community.

FUNCTION

Needs Assessment

The Committee will utilize a wide variety of information sources including existing data, service agency statistics, individual and group consultations, public forums, and published studies and reports to identify the needs of persons with disabilities;

In cases where needed information is unavailable, the Committee will make use of existing resources and encourage the appropriate organizations to undertake the necessary research; and

If needed, the Committee will attend to the gathering of information as required.

Policy Advocacy

The Committee will keep informed on matters of government policy (Municipal, Provincial, or Federal) affecting persons with disabilities;

In cases of local jurisdiction, the Committee may advocate before City Council on behalf of persons with disabilities; and

Where policies fall under the responsibility of other levels of government, the Committee will inform City Council of the impact of these policies on persons with disabilities and suggest possible courses of action for the City to pursue with provincial or federal government.

Public Education

The Committee will encourage the efforts of individuals and organizations to educate the community on matters pertaining to persons with disabilities; and

The Committee will communicate information to the disabled community by appropriate means.

Membership

The Committee will elect a Chairperson (elected amongst the members). The membership will consist of members with disabilities who shall form the majority of the Committee, professional members from the stakeholder community who have a vested interest with accessibility, a member of Council, an Accessibility Coordinator through the Office of the City Clerk and administrative staff who will act as resources.

Term

All members selected to sit on the Committee shall hold their seat for the term of Council and shall be appointed by the Lay Appointments Committee.