

## **Designated Public Sector and Multi-Year Accessibility Plans**

### **Background**

[Ontario Regulation \(O. Reg.\) 191/11 – Integrated Accessibility Standards](#) under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) requires designated public sector organizations to have a multi-year accessibility plan in place which documents the organization's strategy to prevent and remove accessibility barriers.

Organizations must establish, review and update these plans in consultation with persons with disabilities and when applicable, with a municipal accessibility advisory committee.

Plans must be updated at least once every five years and a status report must be completed on an annual basis. The plan and status report must be posted on the organization's website and be available in an accessible format upon request.

### **Designated Public Sector Annual Status Report**

The Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has established a joint multi-year Accessibility Plan, with the County of Haliburton and four local municipalities, to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility and to meet requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and the Integrated Accessibility Standards.

This Annual Status Report details the required annual update for **2019** on the progress of measures taken to improve accessibility. The purpose of this report is to track our organization's progress and make the public aware of our initiatives.

### **To request an alternate format of this annual status report, please contact:**

Name: Dawn Newhook, Clerk

Email: [dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca)

Telephone number: 705-489-2379 ext. 333

### **Accessibility Accomplishments in 2019**

#### **Customer Service Accomplishments**

- Updates completed to the Township's Customer Service Policy
- Implementation of accessibility training software for employees, including training on the Human Rights Code

#### **Information and Communications Accomplishments**

- Created a guideline document for staff when creating documents and website posting for accessibility

## **Employment Accomplishments**

- Job recruitment ads contain information regarding the opportunity for accessible accommodation during the recruitment process
- Implementation of an Accommodation and Emergency Response Plan, if required for persons requiring accessible accommodations.

## **Design of Public Spaces Accomplishments**

- Accessible pavilion completed at the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre
- Accessible picnic tables installed throughout Township parks
- Accessible privy installed at Big Hawk Lake access point

## **Next Steps**

Proposed projects that will include accessible features in the Township for 2020 include:

- Accessible renovations at Fire Station 70 (washroom and entrance way)
- Addition to the Dorset Museum
- Continued staff training for new employees

The Township will continue review, and implement accessible features as identified in the Accessibility Plan, as well the implementation of new accessible features throughout the Township as the need, or opportunity, arises.