

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number CLK2018-005

Date: June 5, 2018

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: All

Title: Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023

Description: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005

Author and Title: Barbara Condie, Accessibility Officer

Recommendation(s):

That Report CLK2018-005, **Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023**; be received;

That the **Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023** be approved; and

That the necessary by-law be brought forward for adoption.

Department Head:_____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other:_____

Chief Administrative Officer:_____

Background:

Accessible Ontario by 2025 is a goal set by the Province of Ontario. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005 is a unique piece of legislation enacted unanimously by all parties in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Ontario's law requires accessibility planning and penalties are set for non-compliance. The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), enacted under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005 sets out accessibility requirements for private and public organizations in the areas of customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation and the design of public spaces.

The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) requires large public sector organizations with 50 or more employees to establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan. The plan must meet the following requirements:

- Outline an organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and its work plan to meet the requirements of the AODA;
- Be developed in consultation with an accessibility advisory committee and people with disabilities and be made available to the public;
- Post the accessibility plan on their website, if any, and provide the plan in an accessible format upon request; and
- Review and update the accessibility plan at least once every five years.

At the Kawartha Lakes AAC meeting held on Thursday, April 19, 2019 the following recommendation received:

KLAAC2018-016

Moved By J. McLean

Seconded By C. Bell

That the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the draft of the City of Kawartha Lakes Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023; and

That Staff forward the City of Kawartha Lakes Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023 to Council for consideration and adoption.

Carried

Rationale:

According to Statistics Canada (2012 statistics), one (1) in seven (7) people in Ontario (1.5 million) has a disability. Alarming statistics project that by 2036, 20% of all Canadians will have some form of disability. Release of current (2017) survey statistics is expected in the near future that will undoubtedly illustrate that people with disabilities represent a significant and one of the fastest growing sectors. With an aging population, the imperatives (need) for accessible communities are rising. Currently, the median age for Ontario is 41.3, the median age in the City of Kawartha Lakes is 51.2, which exemplifies the need for progressive planning and policy development to ensure City programs, services and spaces provide equal opportunity for **All** people to participate to their full potential.

Extensive consultation has taken place over the last year. The AODA Staff team provided input into the framework of the plan that set the stage for three open forum - visioning workshops lead by Strategic Management aimed at collecting feedback from the public. The well-attended visioning workshops included a diverse group consisting of people with disabilities, the Kawartha Lakes AAC members, City staff, business people, students, etc. Excellent feedback was received that helped shape the future accessibility plan including the apparent need to “Explore the options for a public education/ engagement strategy and program for Accessibility”. It was evident that more education and public awareness is necessary based on the fact that some of the comments received had already been completed or the barrier removed by the City. The consolidated listing of comments received by the participants during the consultation is available as **Appendix A**. The City has already invested in correcting or removing some of the barriers identified by the participants.

The **Draft Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023** was introduced the same day as the draft update to the **Accessibility Policy** to the members of the Public Awareness and Public Spaces working groups of the Kawartha Lakes AAC. The collection of comments from committee members and suggested changes went into the final draft.

The CAO and Senior Management Team have provided their review, suggested amendments and approval of the content.

With the plan came a renewed City Vision with a desire to “**Become one of the most accessible, inclusive communities in Ontario**”. Through an on-going development of a culture within our organization that continuously values the four key people principles; dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity and with City Council’s adoption of the **Draft Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023** available as **Appendix B**, the City affirms the commitment to the growth of an inclusive and welcoming community.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Development and endorsement of a Multi-year Accessibility Plan is a legislative requirement of section 4, Ontario Regulation 191/11 of the Integrated Accessibility Standard. Council has the option to amend the details contained within the plan.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The financial investment in accessibility proceeds with the Council approval of annual budget and the requests for specific programs and projects submitted by each corporate department. Adhering to accessibility criteria associated with procurement of programs, services and new infrastructure is a legislative requirement in keeping with the goal of an Accessible Ontario by 2025 and the Human Right Of equality of access. The City's Purchasing Policy and Management Directive, MD2017-020 has incorporated the requirements of the legislation. Addressing accessibility to programs, services, City facilities and spaces will continue to be a planned priority as an on-going process in keeping with the renewed vision to **"Become one of the most accessible, inclusive communities in Ontario"** with the endorsement of this renewed five year **Accessibility Master Plan**.

Relationship of Recommendation(s) To The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan:

The key strategies rooted within the Corporate Strategic Plan 2016-2019, has guided the direction for the formation of the five (5) year Accessibility Master Plan, which identifies strategic priorities and opportunities for improving accessibility as identified in Goal 2 – An Exceptional Quality of Life.

The renewed plan will provide the necessary focus and assistance in guiding the organization and the public as we work together to ensure the continued progress to "An Exceptional Quality of Life" for all citizens that will complement and sustain "A Vibrant and Growing Community" and "Healthy Environment".

Consultations:

Public (Visioning and Consultation Meetings)
Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee
CAO and Senior Management Team
AODA Staff Team

Attachments:

Appendix A – Accessibility Public Meeting and Visioning Exercise – Comments



Consolidated list -
Accessibility Public Se:

Appendix B – Municipal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2023



COKL_Municipal
Accessibility Master Pl:

Department Head E-Mail: critchie@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Cathie Ritchie, City Clerk