



## Committee of the Whole Report

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**Report Number:** CLK 2021-04  
**Meeting Date:** March 9, 2021  
**Title:** Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)  
2020 Annual Activities Report and Proposed 2021 Work Plan  
**Description:** Annual Activities Report and Work Plan

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**Author and Title:** Barbara Condie, Accessibility Officer, on behalf of the AAC

### Recommendation(s):

**That** Report CLK2021-04, **Kawartha Lakes AAC 2020 Annual Activities Report and Proposed 2021 Work Plan**, be received;

**That** the Kawartha Lakes AAC 2021 Work Plan be approved; and

**That** this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

The Kawartha Lakes AAC has ten (10) members appointed by Council. More than 50% of the members are people with disabilities aligning with the legislative requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The Kawartha Lakes AAC vision statement is "Opening Doors to Accessibility by promoting a barrier free City of Kawartha Lakes".

The Committee terms of reference, Activities section a) states that the committee is to prepare an annual written report to Council by the end of Q1 of each calendar year. The report is prepared to outline the Committee's/Board's achievements from the previous year in line with their approved work plan and to present to Council their current year work plan to include details on promotion of public education programs, review of other government reports, programs and legislation for any impacts on the City or its' programs, and future City policy direction all with the view of advancing the City's adopted strategic priorities and the proposed budget.

This report is provided, to inform Council of the 2020 Committee activities and what work is proposed for 2021. This report addresses that direction.

## **Rationale:**

The Kawartha Lakes AAC has formed 2 (two) Working Groups, where 3 or more of the members of the Kawartha Lakes AAC gather to discuss, form recommendations and complete work in areas of:

1. **Public Spaces** (City facilities and other public areas such as transit, transportation routes, parks, etc.). This group actively provides comment to City Planning on Site Plans;
2. **Public Awareness**. This group generates ways in which to share information and to raise public awareness about the importance of making our community more accessible. Coordinating the Council presentation of the Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards is one annual event organized by this group that raises much awareness.

The working groups meet as needed (generally once per month) in the generation of this annual work plan and to fulfill the contents of the plan. Each Working Group provides a report back to the entire committee during a scheduled public meeting on their initiatives, accomplishments and/or with presentation of a formulated recommendation with supporting rationale. The Committee then will determine and vote

on whether the recommendation should be delivered through a report to Council or Staff for their review and consideration.

The onset of the Coronavirus has perpetually changed our lives and the way we conduct business. The Accessibility Advisory Committee members continue to learn new ways of approach and have realigned work plan goals and initiatives accordingly. The availability of virtual platforms such as Zoom provided the members with an opportunity to engage and to continue some of their activities associated with the 2020 Work Plan. Committee achievements are summarized within **Appendix A** of this report.

Recognizing individuals, groups, business and others for creating greater accessibility in our community is an annual highlight for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. With regret in 2020, for the first time in (13) thirteen years, the Committee decided to defer the Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards presentations to the 2021 year. Typically, the selection process and recommendation to Council would have been completed in March/April. This was during the exact time that the Province declared a province-wide state of emergency.

Outreach has been difficult during the 2020 year with limited access to areas, places and people. The Committee concentrated their focus to internal outreach during 2020 by providing staff with greater information and support with the creation of an on-going staff newsletter, Mental Health sessions hosted through the Canadian Mental Health Association and an Accessibility Boot Camp for City Buildings staff has been organized for the first quarter in 2021. Increased public communications will be a focus for 2021.

Supporting the work of the Age-Friendly movement was also a challenge in 2020 due to fact that Health Unit resources, were and still are, redeployed for pandemic relief.

The Committee reviewed eight (8) submissions that were prepared and circulated back through the Planning Division on new Site Plan Development. Reviews completed with full comment and in some cases engagement with the developer/designer creating greater awareness of the need to provide enhancement to both exterior and interior accessibility to the new developments. The Public Spaces working group continues to build on an accessibility checklist. The intent of the checklist is to provide developers with useful suggestions that improve site accessibility at the early stage of design.

City Staff were in receipt of a number of recommendations relating to City Projects such as new transit routes, accessible ramp projects, patio permit policy and events application guideline specific to the pandemic, Pandemic Recovery Task Force, Jump In Branding Guideline, etc.

Although the members faced a number of hurdles during 2020, they have grown to overcome the challenges. They are meeting virtually on a frequent basis with evolving progress in achieving work plan goals.

Moving forward with the 2021 year the Committee will continue to meet to strengthen their community outreach and increase their involvement in a number of areas that will include but will not be limited to the contents of **Appendix B** to this report, titled – Proposed 2021 Work Plan.

## **Other Alternatives Considered:**

This report presented annually as a requirement of the Terms of Reference of the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee of Council.

## **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

Kawartha Lakes is committed to accessible, timely, knowledgeable, courteous and fair services as described in the guiding principles associated with the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. The Kawartha Lakes AAC 2019 Activities Report and Proposed 2020 Work Plan supports and strengthens the commitment of Goal 1 in the Strategic Plan that reads: Improve the health and well-being of residents that further states that Kawartha will make this happen by Enhancing accessibility and encouraging and supporting “age-friendly” programs and initiatives.

## **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

The 2021 Kawartha Lakes AAC budget has been approved at \$14,000.

## **Consultations:**

Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

## **Attachments:**

### **Appendix A – 2020 Report of Achievements**



Report Chart - 2020  
Work Plan - Report

### **Appendix B – 2021 Kawartha Lakes AAC Work Plan**



2021 Work  
Plan.docx

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**Department Head:** Cathie Ritchie, City Clerk

**Department File:** Kawartha Lakes Accessibility