



## Committee of the Whole Report

---

<b>Report Number:</b>	<b>CORP2025-008</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	March 4, 2025
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Update and 2025 Work Plan</b>
<b>Description:</b>	Annual Activities Report and Work Plan
<b>Author and Title:</b>	Christine Briggs; Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility Partner; staff liaison to the Accessibility Advisory Committee

---

### Recommendation(s):

**That** Report **CORP2025-008, Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Update and 2025 Work Plan**, be received;

**That** the 2025 work plan for the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee 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:**

As per the appointments on January 28, 2025, the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee (KLAAC) has a membership of eight (8) individuals. More than 50% of the members are people with disabilities aligning with the legislative requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

The KLAAC vision statement is "Opening Doors to Accessibility" by promoting a barrier free City of Kawartha Lakes." The goal of this dedicated group of individuals, is to continue to identify and eliminate barriers. The committee assists the municipality in its desire to be one of the most accessible, inclusive communities in Ontario, by reviewing City projects and initiatives, and by generating public awareness about the importance of making our community more accessible.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference state that the committee is to prepare an annual written report to Council by the end of Q1 each calendar year. The report is prepared to outline the Committee's achievements from the previous year, in line with their approved work plan, and to present to Council their current annual work plan.

## **Rationale:**

The Kawartha Lakes Advisory Committee is comprised of two (2) subgroups where three (3) or more of the members of the KLAAC gather to develop recommendations and complete work in the areas of:

- 1. Public Spaces** (City facilities and other public areas such as transit, transportation routes, parks, etc.). This group actively provides comments to the City's Planning Division on Site Plans. The focus of this group in 2024 was the redevelopment of their pre-consultation resource. The resource was previously developed to outline broad considerations for accessible development. It is being reworked to align with the standards set forth in the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation so that it can be used as a resource for other City programs (for example, the Million Dollar Makeover Program).
- 2. Public Awareness.** This subgroup devises initiatives, and resources, to enhance public awareness around improving accessibility in our community. One notable annual initiative is the coordination of the Accessibility Awareness Recognition Awards presentation. In 2024 Council, in partnership with the KLAAC, recognized nine (9) deserving recipients. The Public Awareness group also continued their education campaign regarding invisible disabilities. In conjunction with the City, the group released a video breaking down stigma associated with hidden disabilities and imploring community members "not to judge a book by its cover"

and, to remember that “just because someone doesn’t look like they have a disability, doesn’t mean that there isn’t one there”. This video continues to be shared throughout our community and internationally.

The committee subgroups meet as needed (generally once per quarter), outside regular committee meetings, to fulfill the plan's contents. Each subgroup provides a report back to the entire Committee during scheduled public meetings on their initiatives, accomplishments, and formulated recommendations. Last year the Committee provided feedback on and ultimately, endorsed a new Municipal Accessibility Master Plan, an update of the corporate Facility Accessibility Design Standards, and new Information and Communication Accessibility Design Standards. These documents aid municipal staff, and contractors, in meeting provincial accessibility standards across legislation.

Priorities for 2025 include:

- Accept applications, review candidates, and make recommendations to Council regarding suggested recipients of the 2025 Accessibility Awards;
- Generate a community awareness campaign around accessible spaces in Kawartha Lakes. This includes designing a digital badge and decal for Accessibility Award winners and executing a social campaign in 2025;
- Continue to provide comments to City Planning on Site Plans;
- Provide recommendations to the Building Division when there is a deviation from corporate Facility Accessibility Design Standards;
- Provide feedback to funding recipients who are undertaking community accessibility initiatives;
- Amend the pre-consultation resource to align with the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) and use it to engage local BIAs and Chambers to consider accessibility upgrades (in conjunction with the Million Dollar Makeover Program); and
- Continue to review and provide comments to Council, City Staff, and community partners on projects, plans, and policy as reviewed and renewed.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

This report is presented annually as set forth by the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference.

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

The Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee 2024 Activities Report, and Proposed 2025 Work Plan supports the priority “An Exceptional Quality of Life.” By enhancing accessibility for residents, the City is ensuring that a range of programs, services, and supports are available to our residents. By identifying, removing, and

preventing barriers, individuals of all abilities can participate to their full potential in everything that this community has to offer.

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

The 2025 Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Budget has been set at \$8,000.

### **Consultations:**

Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A – Annual Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan 2025



Kawartha Lakes  
Accessibility Advisor

**Department Head email:** [sbeukeboom@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:sbeukeboom@kawarthalakes.ca)

**Department Head:** Sara Beukeboom