

# **Accessibility Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report DRAFT**

June 8, 2021

# Background

- March 2019: Inception of Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Purpose
  - Provide advice and recommendations on improving accessibility for all people in Strathcona County
- Members

Rashelle Babij

Andre Duteau

Floyd House

Susan Mynzak

Brenda Frederick

Kim McDonald (Vice-chair)

John Vrolijk (Chair)

Council Representatives: Councillors Katie Berghofer, Linton Delainey (alternate)

# AAC Mandate Alignment

## Becoming Canada's Most Livable Community

### Strategic Goals

- Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents
- Goal 6: Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents
- Goal 7: Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

### Social Framework Outcomes

- Affordability, Access, Safety, Connectedness and Inclusion

### Recreation and Culture Strategy and Transit Master Plan Principles

- Access, Collaboration, Forward Thinking, Viability, Safety, Customer-focused, Reliable, Efficient

# AAC Mandate Items

## Mandate Letter - 2020 Items


- Solicit feedback from persons with disabilities on accessibility
- Liaise with relevant stakeholders to facilitate pertinent discussions
- Monitor implications – Federal and Provincial directives
- Advice on education of the business community on accessibility

## Related requests and discussions

- Diversity and Inclusion – (2019 implementation update)
- Strathcona County Museum & Archives – design accessibility considerations


# Mandate Item:

## Feedback from persons with disabilities

Activities	Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SCOOP Accessibility Survey – distributed May 2020</li></ul> 	<p>28.2% survey respondents reported experiencing barriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11.9% encountered physical or structural barriers</li><li>• 9.5% experienced attitude barriers</li><li>• 9.2% encountered service barriers</li><li>• 5.8% encountered policy or systems barriers</li><li>• 3.4% experienced technology barriers.</li></ul>


# Mandate Item:

## Feedback from persons with disabilities

Activities	Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SCOOP Accessibility Survey – distributed May 2020</li></ul> 	<p>Top suggestions – improving accessibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Train staff:</b> communication and interaction with people with different types of disabilities</li><li>• <b>Incorporate accessibility:</b> planning, policies, services or events, design of facilities and spaces</li><li>• Accessibility addressed <b>for all events</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invite attendees to share accessibility needs</li></ul></li><li>• Residents can help identify accessibility barriers</li></ul>

# Mandate Item:

## Liaise with relevant stakeholders

Activities	Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Voices of Albertans with Disabilities</li></ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Affordable accessible housing – conversation with a developer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See this as an important population cohort (e.g., <b>1 in 5 people over the age of 15</b>)</li><li>Accessible <b>housing, employment, education and services</b> key to equitable quality of life</li><li>Foster accessibility lens and training</li><li>Not just a seniors issue! Continuum of housing options with <b>barrier free design</b></li><li>County incentives for barrier free design/development</li></ul>


# Mandate Item:

## Monitor implications – Federal and Provincial directives

Activities	Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Federal Policy and mobilization in Alberta for complementary Provincial legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Accessible Canada Act</b> (June 21, 2019) targets systemic barriers preventing “full and equal participation in Canadian society”</li> <li><b>Nova Scotia, Ontario and Manitoba</b> have passed provincial legislation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tony Flores, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Alberta</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability policy in Alberta is a patchwork of <b>30 pieces of legislation</b></li> <li>Alberta’s leading disability organizations: importance of Alberta accessibility legislation</li> </ul>



# Mandate Item: Advice on Education of the Business Community

Activities	Findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conversations with Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce regarding engagement</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 pandemic <b>significantly impacting operations and sustainability</b> of Strathcona County businesses</li> <li>This is a continued AAC mandate item into 2022</li> <li>Conversations ongoing with Chamber leadership - best ways to engage local businesses</li> </ul>

# Mandate Focus for 2021

- Diversity and Inclusion policy - implementation
- Engaging organizations on accessibility considerations and COVID-19 impacts
- Advice on education of the business community
- Accessible design of a potential fieldhouse
- Community safety and wellbeing



# Summary Considerations

- **Train County staff** to interact and communicate positively and effectively with people with all types of abilities
- **Incorporate accessibility:** design, criteria and features in planning, policies, services or events, facilities and spaces
  - Accessibility consistently addressed in event planning/implementation
- Provide **a way for residents to identify** accessibility barriers
  - experienced or observed accessibility barriers



# Summary Considerations

- **Incorporate barrier free design across** all Strathcona County neighborhoods, developments as well as affordable housing strategies
- **Support Provincial accessibility legislation creation:**
  - One overarching policy for consistent coherent policy
- Six months of winter: **accessible snow and ice removal**



# THANK YOU!

