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

June 8, 2021



### **Enclosure 1**



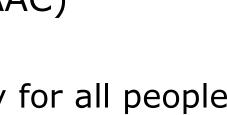
# Background

- 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**

 SCOOP Accessibility Survey – distributed May 2020



### **Findings**

- 28.2% survey respondents reported experiencing barriers:
- 11.9% encountered physical or structural barriers
- 9.5% experienced attitude barriers
- 9.2% encountered service barriers
- 5.8% encountered policy or systems barriers
- 3.4% experienced technology barriers.





## Mandate Item: Feedback from persons with disabilities



Top suggestions – improving accessibility:

- **Train staff**: communication and interaction with people with different types of disabilities
- **Incorporate accessibility**: planning, policies, services or events, design of facilities and spaces
- Accessibility addressed for all events
  - Invite attendees to share accessibility needs
- Residents can help identify accessibility barriers



## Mandate Item: Liaise with relevant stakeholders

| Activities  | Findings   |
|---|--|
| <ul> <li>Voices of Albertans with<br/>Disabilities</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>See this as an in<br/>(e.g., 1 in 5 per</li> </ul>                          |
|   | <ul> <li>Accessible hous<br/>education and<br/>quality of life</li> </ul>            |
|   | <ul> <li>Foster accessibil</li> <li>Not just a senior<br/>housing options</li> </ul> |

- Affordable accessible housing conversation with a developer
- County incentives for barrier free
- design/development



### mportant population cohort ople over the age of 15) sing, employment, **services** key to equitable

### lity lens and training rs issue! Continuum of with **barrier free design**



## **Mandate Item: Monitor implications – Federal and Provincial directives**

| Activities  | Findings   |
|---|--|
| <ul> <li>Review of Federal Policy and<br/>mobilization in Alberta for<br/>complementary Provincial<br/>legislation</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>The Accessible Canada Act (Ju<br/>targets systemic barriers preventi<br/>equal participation in Canadian so</li> <li>Nova Scotia, Ontario and Mani<br/>passed provincial legislation</li> </ul> |
| <ul> <li>Tony Flores, Advocate for<br/>Persons with Disabilities,<br/>Government of Alberta</li> </ul>                        | <ul> <li>Disability policy in Alberta is a pat pieces of legislation</li> <li>Alberta's leading disability organiz importance of Alberta accessibility</li> </ul>  |



### une 21, 2019) ting "full and ociety"

### itoba have

### tchwork of 30

### zations: y legislation



## Mandate Item: **Advice on Education of the Business Community**

### **Activities**

### **Findings**

 Conversations with Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce regarding engagement



- COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacting operations and sustainability of Strathcona County businesses
- This is a continued AAC mandate item into 2022
- Conversations ongoing with Chamber leadership - best ways to engage local businesses



# 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!**



