

2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee annual report

Priorities Committee
November 26, 2024



Introduction

Welcome

AAC Chair and Vice-chair

AAC Purpose

Provide advice and recommendations on improving accessibility for all people in Strathcona County

Interpretation team

- Team approach is the best practice for providing signing interpretation
- Second year providing signing interpretation
- We support and encourage opportunities to increase sign language interpretation services for public meetings and activities at Strathcona County



Committee public members

Public members left to right:

Bonnie Maguffee
Matthew Schneider
Sandy Boehnke
Mary Ann Komant
Asyah Saif (online)
Kristine Lyka (online)



Committee Council Representatives

- Councillor Katie Berghofer
- Councillor Lorne Harvey



2024-2025 AAC mandate items

- Invite community organizations and/or groups with perspectives on accessibility challenges in Strathcona County to discuss and identify opportunities for increased accessibility
- Provide advice to Council on how to work in partnership with the business community on actions that promote greater accessibility

2024-2025 AAC mandate items continued

Provide input in:

- Community Safety and Wellbeing strategy development and implementation
- Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Inclusive Hiring Policy
- Concept, design and renovation of County facilities
- Accessibility Framework and implementation plan

Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Inclusive Hiring Policy

Diversity & Inclusion toolkit

- Valuable tool
- Plain language

Diversity and inclusion programs

- Employee Resource Group (Queer ERG)
- Indigenous Peoples Awareness Training
- Inclusion at Work NorQuest college program

Inclusive Hiring update

- Improve job postings
- Support candidates
- Unconscious bias training for hiring managers

Perspectives on accessibility challenges continued

Older Adults Strategy update

- Community engagement survey
- The disability rate is increasing along side an aging population

Community Connect Redesign

- Accessibility tag to identify public accessibility concerns
- Digital accessibility information shared



Perspectives on accessibility challenges continued

Strathcona County Library

- Rural outreach
- Technology accessibility

Body Diversity in Accessibility

- Social connection is important
- Equal access to public spaces
- Shared information and resources

Perspectives on accessibility challenges continued



Accessible seating considerations:

- ✓ Width
- ✓ Adjustable arm rests
- ✓ Weight capacity (up to 500lbs)

Variety is best!



Perspectives on accessibility challenges continued

Autism Edmonton

- Increase of adults and seniors being diagnosed
- Focus on housing, meaningful employment and community connection

Strathcona County Library Engagement

- Enhance website usability and accessibility
- Increase sensory-friendly and accessible spaces
- Expand the collection of books in various languages
- Continue and expand providing and promoting community events

Housing Affordability Strategy

- Everyone in Strathcona County has access to affordable, attainable, acceptable and inclusive housing options now and in the future

Business community



2024 Discussions

Ideas like accessibility survey question
or workshops or information sessions
for business partners



2025 EDT
Engagement

Community Safety and Well-being

Community Safety and Well-being engagement

- Action Report success stories
- Continue to highlight opportunities to connect accessibility and inclusion as important parts to community belonging

RCMP Engagement

- Local dispatch
- Strong community relationships
- Fraud and scams targeting vulnerable populations
- Training

Concept, design and renovation

Accessible Parking Spaces project

- 20 spaces year one
- Future engagements

The Pointe

- Many accessibility features

Open Space Master Plan

- Engagement invitations

Garden Plot proposal

- PDS request for feedback



Accessibility Framework

Strong Foundation

- Established framework
- Principles

Accessibility initiatives updates

- Accessibility webpage

Implementation future steps

- Directors steering committee
- Business planning process
- Journey map



2024 Summary considerations

AAC members and requests

- Members bring diverse perspectives both professionally and personally
- Increased requests for engagements

Meaningful engagement and reciprocal learning

- Promoting awareness and broaden understanding of accessibility considerations

Sharing Successes

- Many examples from the Council, department and community

Future opportunities

A holistic approach to accessibility

Focus area: Business community

- I.e., partner with Economic Development and Tourism to reach business community opportunities to further advance accessibility

Focus area: Employment accessibility

- I.e., opportunities in supporting awareness around meaningful employment for people with disabilities

Focus area: Rural context

- I.e., explore and share insights into unique rural accessibility concerns

Thank you!

