2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee annual report

Priorities Committee November 26, 2024





Introduction

Welcome

AAC Chair and Vice-chair

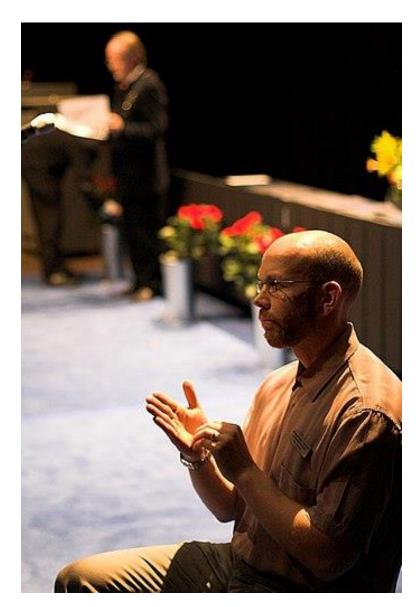
AAC Purpose

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

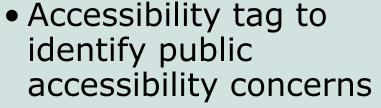
- Improve job postings
- Support candidates
- Unconscious bias training for hiring managers



Older Adults Strategy update

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

Community Connect Redesign















Strathcona County Library

- Rural outreach
- Technology accessibility

Body Diversity in Accessibility

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

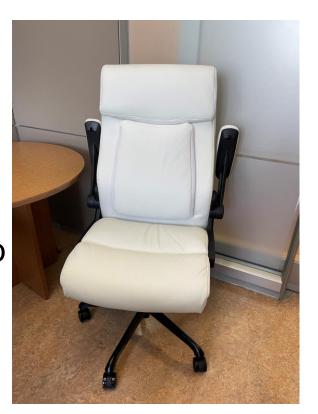




Accessible seating considerations:

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

Variety is best!





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 sensoryfriendly 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





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!



