



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Linda Jean, Deputy Clerk

Department: Council Services

Date of Report: March 1, 2022

Report Number: CL-2022-02

Subject: 2021 Year End Accessibility Report

Recommendation

That the report of the Deputy Clerk dated March 1, 2022 (CL-2022-02) regarding the 2021 year end Accessibility Status Report be received and forwarded to Council for information.

Report

Section 4(1) of O. Reg. 191/11 states that municipalities shall establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan which outlines an organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. (AODA) Furthermore, section 4(3) states that municipalities shall prepare an annual status report on yearly progress made.

This report outlines accessibility initiatives undertaken in 2021 in response to legislative requirements.

Information and Communications Standards

- Due to COVID-19, the Town continued to hold electronic Council and Committee meetings using Zoom. Staff worked with Committee members and the public to provide assistance with electronic meeting participation and accommodation
- A re-design of the Town of LaSalle website was completed providing users with improved navigation and search tools, quick link access to the customer service portal, responsive design for compatibility with all screen sizes and mobile devices and the ability to subscribe to any page allowing users to receive an email when updates are made to the webpage

- Continued use of AbleDocs software and ESolutions form builder to ensure attachments and forms found on the Town's website are compliant with legislative requirements
- Continued use of Site Improve software to identify broken links and spelling errors on the Town's website. Site Improve also has an accessibility checker which conducts automated accessibility checks which adhere to WCAG standards
- Continued use of PlaceSpeak online engagement software. As we are unable to hold in-person open houses due to COVID 19, this software allows us to share relevant information with the public and encourage them to respond when suitable to their needs.
- Continued training and technology provided to employees responsible for creating accessible documents
- Communication Boards were developed and installed at the Vollmer Recreation Complex
 - located indoor near the food court and outside near the concession building
- Continued use of the Everbridge emergency notification system
 - Emergency notifications are communicated in a variety of ways including text messages, email and electronic voice messaging

Employment Standards

- Continue to provide notice of accommodation when advertising for employment opportunities
- Due to COVID 19 restrictions, virtual interviews continue to be held in order to accommodate applicants and fulfill the hiring process
- Continue to educate all successful applicants of current policies regarding accommodation during offer of employment and orientation
- Continue to provide accommodation to employees when required

Transportation & Design of Public Spaces Standards

- Three public access motorized lifts were installed in the municipality accompanied by automatic doors.
 - A public motorized lift was installed on the second level in LaSalle Town Hall, another in the family changeroom in the pool area of the Vollmer Complex and another in the food court area of the Vollmer Complex
- All municipal buildings were outfitted with wave activated touchless door operating buttons

- Continued upgrades to sidewalk approaches within the Municipality which include tactile warning plates
- Improvements to St. Clair Park including a new play structure with an engineered wood fiber base, a new 3m wide asphalt pathway and new fenced in basketball court
- Bench installed in Hockey Rink B of the Vollmer Complex to provide seating for caregivers

Customer Service Standards

- Continue to provide accessible formats and communication supports upon request
- Continue to provide accessibility training to all employees

Other initiatives including Access to Recreation

- In partnership with Family Respite Services, the in person Fantastic Friday program was re-introduced as well as free summer swims
- Provided virtual and telephone fitness programming with specific activities for mobility (eg chair fitness)
- Reopened free use of the indoor walking track to the community (used by participants with disabilities and caregivers)
- Developed an event map for the Holiday Lights that highlighted accessibility at the site
- Offered and promoted a sensory friendly hour at Holiday Lights

Consultations

Each department has provided information regarding respective accessible initiatives undertaken in 2021.

Financial Implications

Allocated departmental budgets were used to fund the various projects as outlined in this report.

Prepared By:



Deputy Clerk

Link to Strategic Goals

1. Enhancing organizational excellence - Yes
2. Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town - Not Applicable
3. Grow and diversify the local economy - Not Applicable
4. Build on our high-quality of life - Yes
5. Sustaining strong public services and infrastructure - Not Applicable

Communications

Not available

Notifications

Not available

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2021 Year End Accessibility Report.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 2, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Director, Council Services/Clerk

Jennifer Astrologo