



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN **2009**

Section 1

1. The Plan

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each Municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 requires that the accessibility plan include:

- a) a report on the measures the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- b) the measures in place to ensure that the municipality assesses its proposals for by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility;
- c) a list of the by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services that the municipality will review in the coming year in order to identify barriers;
- d) the measures that the municipality intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers; and
- e) make the accessibility plan available to the public.

1 (i) Obligations to Consult

The ODA specifies that organizations with annual accessibility planning obligations consult with people with disabilities or with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario in the preparation of their plans.

Section 2

2. The Committee

Functions of the Committee

- a) Establish an accessibility working group.
- b) Commit to accessibility planning.
- c) Review recent initiatives and successes in identifying, removing and preventing barriers within the services offered by the Town of Kapuskasing.
- d) Identify (list/categorize) barriers that may be addressed in the coming year.
- e) Set priorities and develop strategies to address barrier removal and prevention.
- f) Specify how and when progress is to be monitored.
- g) Write and endorse the plan.
- h) Submit to Council for approval, implementation, publishing and communicating the plan.
- i) Review and monitor the plan.

2 (i) Structure of the Committee

The Advisory Committee for Transportation of Disabled Persons will become the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Members are appointed by Town Council.

Frank Siebert	Chair/Town Councillor
Patricia Simone	Co-Chair
Andre Belair	Member
Marcel Violette	Member
Cindy Dubien	Member
Robert Otis	Member
Rachelle Lefebvre	Member
Darren Marsh	Member
Normand Carriere	Member
Brian Hachez	Member
Bertha Lalande	Member
Marc Dupont	Resource Person/Town Treasurer
Mark Babin	Resource Person/Accessible Bus Operator

People with disabilities are encouraged to submit their names to sit on the Committee. The Committee will ensure there will be adequate representation of people with disabilities. Consultation with people with disabilities when conducting assessments will be mandatory.

Section 3

3. Accessibility Achievements

Historical Review

Historically, the Town of Kapuskasing has had no formal process in place to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities accessing its services. As issues arose, or barriers were identified, they were removed at the time with available resources or dealt with during planned renovations or rebuilds. In most occurrences, the removal of barriers in the past has been a result of the Town of Kapuskasing meeting legislative requirements including those of the Provincial Building Code.

As part of the Municipality's commitment to create a caring, safe community, the municipality has already implemented a number of initiatives to make the community and our local government and services more accessible.

ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2008 PLAN

Commitment: The Municipality of Kapuskasing will commit to maintaining the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Action: A member of council appointed to ensure the AAC meets on a regular basis. A recruitment campaign was also initiated by the AAC to increase the number of committee members and to encourage people with disabilities to participate.

Status: Four new members recruited.

Commitment: In the 2007 Plan, the Accessibility Advisory Committee along with volunteers from the disabled community reviewed all individual buildings, structures or facilities owned or rented by the Town of Kapuskasing, as identified in the plan, in order to identify additional barriers to people with disabilities and make recommendations to Council to make structures barrier free. Recommendations will be carried forward on each plan and will be removed once the issue has been resolved.

Action: Accessibility Audit Checklist identifying barriers to people with disabilities was approved by Mayor and Council and distributed to all Department Heads of the Town of Kapuskasing.

Status: The following recommendations were submitted to Council for implementation for the Civic Centre.

PARKING

. Signage in front of the building to be erected indicating handi-cap access and handi-cap parking available at side of building. **UNRESOLVED**

. Increase the number of accessible handicap parking spaces from 2 to 3 designated spots. **RESOLVED**

. Install new signage by these parking spaces indicating handicap parking spaces. **UNRESOLVED**

ENTRANCES

. A full handrail should be erected by the side entrance, eliminating the chain. **UNRESOLVED**

. Signage by the chair lift inside the building, indicating the hours of operation. **UNRESOLVED**

. Bell (used to signal that someone needs assistance to use the chair lift) to be relocated outside of the offices into the hallway. **UNRESOLVED**

LIGHTING

. Increase lighting in all hallways. **IN PROGRESS**

WASHROOMS

. Add additional coat hooks no more than 1200 mm above the floor in the accessible washrooms. **UNRESOLVED**

. Install L shape grab bar in accessible washroom on main floor. **UNRESOLVED**

. Add paper dispenser in mens washroom downstairs at a lower level to accommodate people using wheelchairs. **UNRESOLVED**

SIGNAGE

. Install International Accessibility Sign by side entrance, exterior of building. **UNRESOLVED**

Note: The Civic Centre is undergoing major renovations at this time. All issues raised by the Accessibility Advisory Committee that have not been resolved to date, will be reviewed and implemented during these renovations. It should also be noted that the Town of Kapuskasing will be removing the current chair lift located at the Civic Centre and an elevator will be installed in its place, ensuring accessibility and independence for all members of the community.

AIRPORT

PARKING

Signage for Handicap Parking spaces to be displayed on both sides.
UNRESOLVED

TELEPHONES

Phone and counter top to be lowered
UNRESOLVED

FIRE ALARMS

Alarms to be lowered.
UNRESOLVED

SPORTS PALACE (ARENA)

DOORWAYS

Emergency release from the outside
UNRESOLVED

Power door entrances non existent
RESOLVED

WASHROOM

Coat hooks no more than 1200mm above floor
UNRESOLVED

Floor to ceiling pole at front corner of sink
UNRESOLVED

Seat between 16" and 17" above floor
UNRESOLVED

Soap dispensers no more than 1200 mm above floor
UNRESOLVED

The accessible washroom door entrance is too small and needs to be widened.
UNRESOLVED

The accessible washroom size is too small and wheelchairs cannot manoeuvre. Sign indicating accessible washroom should be removed until this issue is resolved.

RESOLVED

EXTERIOR WALKS

Colour contrast from curb to street.

UNRESOLVED

RAMPS

Back door does not have a ramp..

UNRESOLVED

Handrail extensions at top and bottom of ramp.

UNRESOLVED

WHEELCHAIR LIFT

Wheelchair available for transfers from scooters.

RESOLVED

All staff trained on chair lift.

RESOLVED

Buzzer installed for staff to respond to request to use lift.

UNRESOLVED

Signage to be installed indicating weight capacity of lift.

RESOLVED

CONCESSION BOOTH

Counter top to be lowered to accommodate wheelchair users.

UNRESOLVED

SIGNAGE

Colour contrast on all signage

UNRESOLVED

Tactile identification

UNRESOLVED

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

At least one to be barrier free

	UNRESOLVED
Front spout, 910mm above floor.	UNRESOLVED
Operable with one hand	UNRESOLVED
<u>FIRE ALARMS</u>	
Visual and audio signalling devices to be installed.	RESOLVED
Signal from one appliance visible throughout floor area.	UNRESOLVED

RIVERSIDE WATER PARK

<u>PARKING</u>	
Designated parking location within 30m of facility	UNRESOLVED
<u>WASHROOM</u>	
Coat hooks and soap dispensers no more than 1200 mm above floor.	UNRESOLVED
Emergency release from outside	UNRESOLVED
Shelf over paper dispenser	UNRESOLVED
Audio-Visual fire alarms	RESOLVED
Floor to ceiling pole at front corner of sink	UNRESOLVED
<u>RAMPS</u>	
Handrail extensions at top and bottom of ramp.	RESOLVED
<u>SIGNAGE</u>	
Contrast colours on all signs	UNRESOLVED

DONAT BROUSSEAU POOL

TELEPHONE

Phone to be lowered

UNRESOLVED

CURLING RINK

POWER DOOR ENTRANCES

Push button to activate door to be relocated to opposite side.

UNRESOLVED

BOAT LAUNCH

PARKING

Area between post and metal rail is open - needs a physical barrier.

UNRESOLVED

WASHROOM

Lever type faucets to be installed

UNRESOLVED

Grab bar beside toilet should be angled.

UNRESOLVED

EXTERIOR WALKS

Near bottom of ramp, asphalt falling away from edge and path, resulting in narrower walkway.

UNRESOLVED

SIGNAGE

No international sign of accessibility.

UNRESOLVED

FIXED SEATING

A seat or bench to be installed at end of rampway.

UNRESOLVED

RAILING

Railway by brick walkway onto main dock to be installed.

UNRESOLVED

EASTVIEW BALL PARK

DOORWAY

Relocate push button to activate automatic door to opposite side.

RESOLVED

SIGNAGE

No accessible sign posted by washroom.

RESOLVED

Status: Recommendations submitted to council.

Commitment: Assess Handi-trans bus booking system

Action: An ad-hoc committee was appointed under the AAC to review the Accessible Bus Service booking system. However, due to the non-existence of a policy manual, the AAC has directed their attention to developing a manual as the first priority before reviewing the bus booking system.

Status: A policy manual for the operation of the accessible bus has been developed and submitted to Council for approval. Over the next year, the AAC will review the bus booking system. On-going.

IN PROGRESS

Commitment: Evaluate and make recommendations on purchase of new bus.

Action: The AAC reviewed different floor plans of available accessible buses. Meetings were held with local bus operator for input. AAC made recommendations on types of accessories to be included in the new bus and were submitted to Mayor and Council for approval. The total cost of a new bus will be approximately \$100,000.

The AAC also developed and implemented fundraising campaign to raise shortfall of funds in the amount of \$15,000.

Status: Funds secured. Tenders submitted and arrival of new bus expected for January 2009.

RESOLVED

Commitment: Develop recommendations regarding public notices and Municipal billings.

Action: In discussion, the AAC determined that recommendations regarding public notices and Municipal billings would be included in the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service. On-going.

IN PROGRESS

2009 PLAN

1. All unresolved issued from the 2008 plan will be carried forward to the new year.
2. Review Municipal Policies, Practices and Procedures on providing goods and services to ensure reasonable efforts are made to accommodate people with disabilities.

Section 4

4. Addressing Barriers

- a) The Town of Kapuskasing will use the Government of Ontario barrier-free design guidelines that promote accessibility for people with disabilities to buildings that the Municipality buys, leases, builds or significantly renovates. The barrier free design guidelines used will ensure the level of accessibility of Municipal government buildings is at least as good as or better than the level of accessibility required by the Building Code Act.
- b) Council will accommodate the employment-related accessibility needs of people with disabilities who apply for jobs with the municipal government, as required by the Human Rights Code.
- c) The Town of Kapuskasing will accommodate the accessibility needs of its employees as required by the Human Rights Code.
- d) The Town of Kapuskasing will make sure that its managers and supervisors have access to information necessary to meet the government's duties to employees with disabilities.
- e) The Town of Kapuskasing will review by-laws passed since January 2000 to identify barriers to programs, practices and services
- f) The municipality will take into account how accessible any equipment, supplies or services to be bought by the municipality, for use by itself, its employees or the public, is to people with disabilities.
- g) The municipality will examine municipal services for barriers.

- h) The municipality will look into enforcing new penalties for counterfeiting and misuse of Disabled Person Parking Permits.
- i) The municipality will look at increasing the minimal penalty for misuse of designated parking under municipal by-laws.
RESOLVED
- j) The municipality will recommend accessibility requirements when granting business licences.

Section 5

5. Making the Plan Available

The Town will make this Plan available on Kapuskasing's web site, and have hard copies available at the Municipal office, in both official languages. A public notice advising the general public that the plan is available for their perusal and review will be issued.

The Municipality invites you to submit your comments on the Plan as these will help the Municipality in making our Community, local government and services more accessible.

How to Contact Us

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Clerk

By Mail: Marc Dupont
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By Fax: 705-337-1741
By Phone: 705-337-4257 (Marc Dupont)
705-337-4254 (Barbara Major)

Section 6

6. Conclusion

Over the next 12 month period, the Accessibility Advisory Committee along with volunteers living with disabilities will make the following commitment:

- ! Complete development of Policies and Procedures for Accessible Bus Operation to include contract operator, drivers and riders.
- ! Review Accessible Bus Booking System
- ! Review Municipal Policies, Practices and Procedures on providing goods and services to ensure reasonable efforts are made to accommodate people with disabilities.

Making the Town of Kapuskasing an accessible Town will be an ongoing process. The Municipality actively engages in identifying and removing barriers - particularly physical barriers. With the requirements of ODA, the Municipality has a better understanding about the range of disabilities and is better equipped to focus on other barriers.

REVISED: March 13, 2009 by the AAC.