



Minutes of: ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: Nov 21st, 2023 **Time:** 4:33 pm -5:50 pm.

Location: OCAB Meeting Room **Page:** 2
#129

Chair: Sharlene Mohlman **Recorder:** Ayesha Sajid

File Name: Accessibility Advisory Committee

Guest:

	ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Welcome		
	Adoption of Agenda	Agenda – Accepted as presented.	
	OC’s Multi-Year ACC Policy	Ayesha updated the Committee that SMT awaits their response on the Multi-Year Accessibility Policy(referred to as the Plan) and the Annual Report 2023. The committee advised to keep their version of the Statement of Organizational Commitment, which they believe is more inclusive, detailed, and encompassing. Committee also pointed out that the use of words like reasonable, realistic, and minimum in the policy, currently referred to as the Plan, is undermining and doesn’t portray a strong impression of the County’s commitment to be a barrier-free County by 2025. Using this word minimizes the policy itself and doesn't show full adherence to the Legislation's requirement to be barrier-free by 2025.	

	ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
		<p>Municipal policy's goals should at least acknowledge legislation goals and aim to achieve what the Legislation requires. In addition, the Committee also suggested that the County's Multi-Year Plan Policy referred to as the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, should be acknowledged as just the policy and not the Plan itself, as it can be misleading. The Multi-year Accessibility Plan draft worked and reviewed by the Committee should be recognized as County's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. In the Annual Report 2023, the Committee advised keeping points 8 under General and 6 under Information & Communication, respectively. Also, AAC would like to know the progress of the County's compliance via % and what measures are taken instead of stating that it complies in its annual report. One of the AAC members pointed out that coin laundry has no Braille, as opposed to what is stated in the report. AAC also clarified whether the County complies with the AODA or it does not in addressing the barriers! There is no mid-way. So again, the use of the words "reasonably and realistically implementable" gives the wrong impression. AAC mentioned that they understand that in different circumstances/situations, the County may be able to provide reasonable/realistic solutions. Still, this approach shouldn't be reflected in the County's policy, which also tends to show that the actions required to make the county barrier-free would never be prioritized in the budgets. AAC members were also curious about the number of modified/accessible units in the context of social housing buildings and will this decision be informed by the population of people with disabilities in Oxford County.</p>	
<p>Oxford County's Multi-Year</p>		<p>AAC suggested some changes to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan draft that Ayesha will change accordingly.</p>	

	ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Accessibility Plan(draft)			
Access Checklist Review	AAC will review the Access Checklist.		
Other Items			
Next In-Person Meeting Date & Time	The date and place for the next meeting are Jan 16 th , 2024, at OCAB, Room 129, from 4:30 pm - to 6:30 pm.		