

June 24, 2024

Committee of the Whole

**Accessibility Plan
Update**

Plan Overview

What	81 ideas to 23 recommendations in 5 focus areas	Incorporating accessibility	Information	Employment	Work with community partners	Continuous improvement
How	Inclusion	Adaptability	Diversity	Collaboration	Self Determination	Universal design
Why	Importance of this work for individuals with all levels of abilities, families, older adults, and everyone in the community					

Action Themes

Theme	Description
Incorporating accessibility	Improvements to facilities, infrastructure, and public spaces (e.g., recommendations for specific built infrastructure)
Information	Actions that provide connections to information (e.g., information, education, communication)
Employment	Actions expected from the Town of Oliver as an employer
Work with community partners	Actions with partners focused on improving accessibility in the community of Oliver
Continuous improvement	Create a core principle of continually improving the accessibility of the Town’s infrastructure and services (e.g., Town staff learning and training, new programs/services)

Next Steps

1. Committee of the Whole presentation on June 24, 2024 (today)
2. Accessibility and Age Friendly meeting on June 25, 2024 (tomorrow) to review the plan and inform the three-year action plan (2024, 2025, and 2026)
 1. Identify the recommended projects for \$25,000 grant from the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)
 2. Schedule specific recommendations in 2024, 2025, and 2026
3. Staff finish writing the accessibility plan
4. Committee review of the plan
5. Council decision



Appendix with Specific Actions

Incorporating Accessibility

Improvements to facilities, infrastructure, and public spaces
(e.g., recommendations for specific built infrastructure)

- Opportunities to improve accessibility will be considered on all retrofit projects
 - Bathroom and toilet height
 - Upgrade traffic signals with audible signals
 - Evaluate transit infrastructure for adherence to BC Transit Infrastructure Guidelines (eg. stops and exchanges)
 - Strongly consider options to incorporate Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (60–79% level) for all new municipal facilities
 - Enhance sound system
 - Accessible parking at Town facilities
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Information

Actions that provide connections to information (e.g., information, education, communication)

- Compile accessibility information on all public washroom facilities and integrate it into an accessibility GIS map. Make it available, and in a PDF format for screen readers or text breakdown
 - Compile accessibility information on all pathways and trails (with gradients, widths, level of difficulty) and integrate it into an accessibility GIS map, and in a PDF format for screen readers or text breakdown
 - Compile accessibility information on all accessible features of parks, accessible pedestrian crossings, and more and integrate it into an accessibility GIS map. Make it available, and in a PDF format for screen readers or text breakdown
 - Develop and deliver an awareness campaign for snow removal contractors, the public, and land owners about the importance of snow removal in commercial areas, at pedestrian intersections, on sidewalks and in accessible parking areas
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Employment

Actions expected from the Town of Oliver as an employer

- Educate Town of Oliver staff involved in the hiring process to improve accessibility of the recruitment process
 - Identify barriers in the recruitment process and remove and adjust to the greatest extent possible
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Work with Community Partners

Actions with partners focused on improving accessibility in the community of Oliver

- Research feasibility of a pilot community support driver program or accessible ride sharing service
 - Work with BC Transit to expand accessible transit service hours
 - Continue developing accessible programs in partnership with community organizations serving persons with disabilities or local chapters of provincial and national organizations
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Continuous Improvement

Create a core principle of continually improving the accessibility of the Town's infrastructure and services (e.g., Town staff learning and training, new programs/services)

- Improve inclusion and consultation with persons with disabilities during decision making that may impact them, when making changes, acquiring assets for public use, and designing infrastructure
 - Offer opportunities for staff to experience some of the issues that persons with disabilities face on a daily basis (eg. using wheelchairs, vision/hearing impairments)
 - Provide training to public-facing staff to improve customer service around accessibility and best practices when serving persons with disabilities (eg. working with clients who have guide dogs)
 - Enhance building evacuation plans and drills to include processes (visual and audible) and instructions for evacuation of employees and visitors of all abilities. Provide training to employees on these processes and communicate to visitors
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Continuous Improvement 2

Create a core principle of continually improving the accessibility of the Town's infrastructure and services (e.g., Town staff learning and training, new programs/services)

- Municipal Chief Election Officer to ensure accessibility and independence without secondary assistance
 - Ensure training offered to employees is accessible to the greatest extent possible
 - Include accessibility considerations and implications in the Town of Oliver active transportation plan and Official Community Plan through consultation with the community and the Accessibility and Age Friendly Committee
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