
Accessibility Plan

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and
the Islands

Introduction.....	3
INTERPRETATION.....	3
MUNICIPAL COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING.....	3
AIM.....	4
OBJECTIVES.....	4
MUNICIPAL SERVICES.....	4
FACILITIES.....	4
PAST INITIATIVES TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO PERSON WITH DISABILITIES.....	6
MEASURES TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.....	6
REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONAL AND DECISION MAKING PRACTICES.....	6
MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN.....	7
REVIEW AND MONITORING OF THE PROCESS.....	7
COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN.....	7

Accessibility Plan

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands

Introduction

There are 1.9 million people in Ontario with disabilities. This number will increase as the population ages as the incidence of disability increases with age.

On December 14, 2001, the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 (the ODA) was passed to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities. Under the ODA all municipalities must prepare and make public their accessibility plans by September 30th, 2003. The ODA is designed so that cities, towns and other municipalities, hospitals, school boards, colleges and universities, public transportation providers, government ministries and agencies, the private sector and people with disabilities can take part in making Ontario a more accessible province.

Under the Ontario Human Rights Code, people with disabilities have the right to be free from discrimination in employment services, goods, facilities and housing. Several Ontario Statutes and Regulations address the right to equal treatment including:

- The Assessment Act
- The Blind Person's Rights Act
- The Building Code Act 1992
- The Corporations Tax Act
- The Income Tax Act
- The Education Act
- The Ontario Disability Support Program Act 1997
- The Workplace Safety and Insurance Act 1997

INTERPRETATION

The purpose of the Ontario with Disabilities Act 2001 is to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities. The act provides for their involvement in identifying, removing and preventing barriers allowing their full participation in the life of Ontario.

MUNICIPAL COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING

The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (The Town) is committed to:

- The continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities; and
- Providing quality services to all members of the community with disabilities

AIM

The aim of this plan is to identify the measures the Town has taken in previous years and will take during the coming year(s) to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities using municipal facilities and services.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this plan are to:

- 1) Report on the measures the Town has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- 2) Describe the measures in place to ensure that the Town assesses its acts, by-laws, regulations, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility for people with disabilities.
- 3) List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services that the Town will review in the coming year(s) to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
- 4) Describe the measures the Town intends to take in the coming year(s) to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- 5) Describe how the Town will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Municipal Office, Postal Bag 2000, 14 Water Street, Little Current, On., Phone (705) 368 3500, FAX (705) 368 2245. email info@townofnemi.on.ca

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

All municipal administration is conducted at the Town's Municipal Office is located at 14 Water Street providing services including; public information, planning, zoning, building permits, financial administration and tax collection. The Town holds council meetings at 14 Water Street, a facility that is fully assessable.

FACILITIES

Public Works

- Road Works Garage Sheguiandah
- Public Works Garage Little Current
- Water Treatment Plant Sheguiandah
- Water Treatment Plant Little Current

- Lift Stations (several) Little Current
- Recycling and Landfill Center

Community Services

- Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Recreation Centre
- Manitoulin Welcome Centre
- Spider Bay Marina
- Downtown Waterfront
- Centennial Museum at Sheguiandah
- Low Island Beach Service Building
- Low Island Park
- Fire Hall Sheguiandah
- Fire Hall Little Current
- Cemeteries
- Other Parks: McLean's Mountain, Government Dock Sheguiandah, Strawberry Look out, Green Bay Beach, Lewis Hiking Trail, , Linear Waterfront Walking Trail, Turner Park
- Pavilions

Administration and Finance

- Municipal Offices
- Manitoulin East Airport
- Little Current Library

PAST INITIATIVES TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO PERSON WITH DISABILITIES

The Town has made progress over the years addressing the needs of those with disabilities. Some of the measures include:

- Designated parking at the Recreation Centre, Town office and the Main business section
- Ramp and entry improvements at the Recreation Centre and Post Office
- Push button door openers at several locations
- Accessible Customer Service Training (as per Ontario Regulation 429/07) provided by Municipal Clerk to all staff. This continues as part of staff orientation for new hires.
- New Construction that included accommodation:
 - Museum renovation
 - Recreation Centre
 - Low Island Beach Services Building
 - Airport terminal
 - Welcome Centre
 - Pavilions
 - Town office / Waterfront Artisan and Technology Center

MEASURES TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- All employees will be empowered to report any identified potential barriers or hazards.
- Any new or proposed by-laws will consider individuals with disabilities.

REVIEWS OF THE OPERATIONAL AND DECISION MAKING PRACTICES

- Before buying, the Town will examine equipment, supplies or services for itself, its employees or the Public, considering the accessibility of the equipment, supplies and services to people with disabilities.
- The Town will use the Government of Ontario 'barriers 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 guideline use will ensure the level of accessibility for municipal buildings is at least as good as or better than the level of accessibility required by the Building Code.

- The Town will accommodate the accessibility needs for its employees as required by the Human Rights Code.
- Managers and Supervisors are encouraged to consider the provision of funding to remove barriers as part of their annual budget process.

MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

By 2014, all public organizations are required to have a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan in place as per the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

This plan will work as a timeline identifying how the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands will work towards achieving compliance with the standards outlined in the legislation set by the Accessibilities for Ontarians with Disabilities Act by 2021.

REVIEW AND MONITORING OF THE PROCESS

The Town is committed to this plan. Each year before budget development, a review of the plan shall be completed

- To review and evaluate progress towards achieving objectives
- Review and prioritize the plan to address any remaining or new identified barriers

COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN

This plan will be available on the web site as well as at the Town Office and the Little Current Library. The Town will make every effort to make the plan available to those with disabilities for their perusal and review.