

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

2023-2027



The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

A requirement under the AODA legislation states all municipalities with a population of over 10,000 must establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

The AAC is a statutory advisory committee consisting of five resident volunteer members responsible for raising community awareness surrounding persons with disabilities and provides advice and recommendations to Council on ensuring a barrier free community. The members identify as a person with a disability and/or identify as being familiar with issues affecting people with disabilities. The Committee focuses on the review of site plans, playgrounds, and community parks, pursuant to the standards as outlined in the AODA and is responsible for advising Council on the development of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

The AAC has advised on a work plan that addresses initiatives to create an accessible Caledon for the 2023-2027 period.

Committee Work Plan

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) has identified the four following initiatives as part of its 2023-2027 Committee Work Plan:

- 1) Community Outreach – Exploring ways to create community engagement ie. Accessibility Award Program, Treat Accessibly, Forums, Contests and Workshops.
- 2) Educational Resources - Update existing informational pamphlets for local businesses and organizations about ways to make their goods and services more accessible, as well as educational content surrounding age-appropriate language to discuss disabilities with youth
- 3) Newsletters - Making up a yearly bulletin or newsletter to be mailed out to all residents as a reminder of how important inclusiveness inside accessibility is to the public and show examples like ramps, automatic doors, spacious isles, lower counters to accommodate persons in wheelchairs or mobility aids, etc; notify residents via mail of National AccessAbility week
- 4) Where applicable, assess and identify the need for accessibility provisions to Town services with the goal of increasing participation and opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The AAC will create a yearly workplan that is reasonable, financially feasible, and in correspondence with the 4 initiatives outlined above. The yearly workplan will help to ensure these initiatives are met within the 2023-2027 accessibility cycle.

In June 2024, initiative No. 2 was selected as the 2024 priority by the Committee. Through the creation and administration of educational resources for the remainder of 2024, the Town will be establishing a foundation of informative content to ensure success of other work plan initiatives.

Initiative No.1 will include coordination with the Town of Caledon Communications Department to coordinate the promotion of National AccessAbility Week.

The AAC, in consultation with Town staff, as directed, will update the accessibility brochure and circulate to local and new businesses within the Town in correspondence with initiative No. 2. The brochure is intended to act as a public education piece for small businesses, promoting the benefits of becoming

more accessible and raising awareness to assist with meeting requirements of the legislation. Building on this, new resources can be created in consultation with the AAC to address gaps in educational content and spread awareness regarding accessibility.

In June 2017, the AAC chose to launch an Accessibility Award for Caledon Businesses as the 2018 Work Plan priority. Continuing with this initiative, the Award focuses on initiative No. 1, which is to explore ways to create community engagement and outreach regarding accessibility awareness for local businesses. The AAC seeks to make citizens of Caledon aware of accessibility by highlighting businesses or organizations that have contributed by taking the initiative to make their premises more accessible. The Committee believes that an accessible Town benefits not only persons with disabilities but all members of the community, including seniors and children.

The AAC will work with the Town of Caledon within the 2023-2027 cycle to identify a business worthy of the Accessibility Award and coordinate with council to have the award appropriately presented to the recipient.

Initiative No. 4 will be an ongoing effort to find further avenues to promote and address accessibility within the Town of Caledon. Initiative No. 4 keeps the Committee Work Plan open-ended and allows for ad hoc opportunities to be included in the AAC's goals, as applicable.

The AAC is committed to raising community awareness surrounding persons with disabilities and providing such through the initiatives identified in the work plan.