



TOWN OF MINTO

MEETING DATE: February 4, 2025
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
SERVICE AREA: Clerks
SUBJECT: CL 2025-004, Annual Accessibility Update

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto hereby receives report CL 2025-004 Annual Accessibility Update, prepared by the Deputy Clerk/Manager, People and Culture, for information purposes.

BACKGROUND

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is comprised of two standards. They are the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR). Between them, they establish the principles that the Town, its staff and volunteers, must follow with respect to accessible customer service, information and communications, employment, design of public spaces in the built environment and for the overall training, planning and reporting of accessibility initiatives. Town staff continues to work closely with the County of Wellington Accessibility Advisory Committee to ensure Minto remains in compliance with the Act.

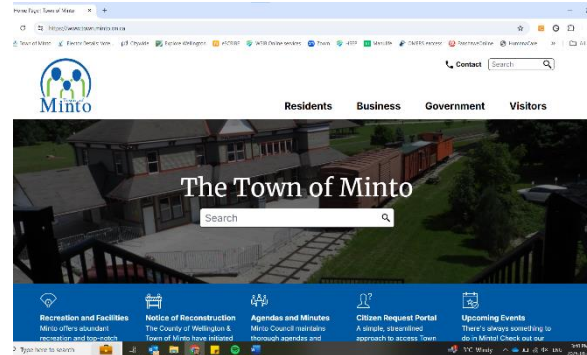


COMMENTS:

The Town’s Multi-Year Accessibility Plan was reviewed and updated in 2022. The new plan will be in effect until 2027 and covers how the Town plans to comply with the aforementioned regulations.

2024 Accessibility Initiatives

In 2024, the Town launched a new website, with new accessibility features, including an accessibility checker integrated into the back end of the site to allow those posting content to check if it is compliant prior to the content going live. This was funded in part by the 2023 funds from the annual Wellington County Accessibility grant, which offers each municipality \$10,000 per year to complete accessibility projects.



Additionally, staff were successful with their application for the 2024 funds, which were used to upgrade the existing ramp and door and install a new accessible door opener at the Drew Hall. This building was eligible for the annual funding as it is owned by the municipality, although it is operated by the Drew Board.

Town staff continue to participate in the Wellington County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee, attending meetings and providing insight from the Town regarding initiatives. In 2024, Town staff presented the approved plan for the Harriston Arena Grounds project for the Committees review, with no comments being received.

In 2025, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has expressed interest in completing Accessibility Audits of our downtowns, and we are exploring the possibility of applying for the funding to fund these audits.

The County of Wellington is proposing to update the Wellington County Facility Accessibility Design Manual in response to the new provisions introduced in the Ontario Building Code, and will be putting together a subcommittee comprised of both members of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee, and staff from the lower-tier municipalities to complete this work.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

Financial costs for training should be minimal with the use of the HRDownloads platform and by working with the County Accessibility Coordinator. Costs to accommodate an employee with

a disability would be unique in each instance. Rules and regulations found in the Design of Public Space Standard the Ontario Building Code and the County's Facility Accessibility Design Manual that guide new Town infrastructure moving forward will also be unique in each instance. Town staff will need to ensure they budget for any additional costs for these projects.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Foster a welcoming, accessible, and understanding community where your family belongs.

PREPARED BY: Quinn Foerter, Deputy Clerk/Manager, People and Culture

RECOMMENDED BY: Gregg Furtney, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)