

# **Presentations and Delegations**

---

# Request for Recommendation Priorities Committee



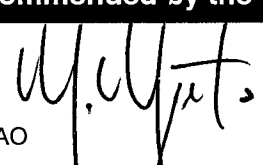
Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	October 22, 2003				Report Date	October 15, 2003			
Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	Closed

Report Title
<b>CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY ACCESSIBILITY PLAN</b>

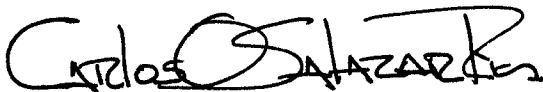
Policy Implications + Budget Impact	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This report and recommendation(s) have been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified
<p>The Accessibility Plan is mandated under the Ontario with Disabilities Act, 2001. The plan recommends a Universal Policy Access for the community with specific recommendations for implementation during 2003/2004. The Act requires that the Accessibility plan be reviewed every year.</p> <p>As a mandated Plan and service, an amount of \$50,000 be considered in the 2004 budget process for the implementation of the Accessibility Plan in the CAO's Office - Corporate Strategy and Policy Analysis under the direction of Council's Accessibility Advisory Committee.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Background attached

Recommendation	
<p>That Council adopts The City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Plan as recommended by Council's Accessibility Advisory Committee.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommendation attached

Recommended by the General Manager
N/A
Name and Title

Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Mark Mieto, CAO

**Report Authored By**



Carlos Salazar  
Manager Corporate Strategy and Policy Analysis

**Division Review**

N/A

Name  
and Title

**Accessibility Plan - Executive Summary**

People with disabilities represent a significant and growing part of our population. According to Statistics Canada, about 1.9 million Ontarians have disabilities — about 16% of the population. Disability tends to increase with age. In two decades, it is estimated that 20% of the population will have disabilities. Enhancing the ability of people with disabilities to live independently and contribute to the community will have positive effects on future prosperity in Ontario and the City of Greater Sudbury.

According to different statistical sources, about 18,000 people in the City of Greater Sudbury have a long-term disability, of which about 900 are children and 8,000 Seniors 65+. The statistics also show that about 2,000 children are considered 'at risk' for physical disabilities, compounded by the fact that our seniors population is the fastest growing segment of our demographics.

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) received Royal Assent on December 14, 2001. The purpose of the ODA is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities through identification, removal and prevention of barriers to participation in the life of the province.

Improving accessibility is a shared responsibility. The ODA requires the provincial and municipal governments and key broader public sector organizations to review their policies, programs and services through the development of annual Accessibility Plans.

The City plays a crucial role in the planning and development of our communities: in their streets, parks, public transit, libraries, social housing, ambulance services, public buildings and elections. Responsibilities, which include enforcing the barrier-free access requirements of the Ontario Building Code and implementing key accessibility considerations under the ODA, are crucial to realizing a vision of local communities that improve accessibility and mobility for their residents.

This Accessibility Plan is intended to address existing barriers to people with disabilities and to prevent new barriers from being established. All municipalities, regardless of their size, are required to prepare annual Accessibility Plans as part of their regular planning process.

The Council of the City of Greater Sudbury established the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee in the fall 2002. The mandate of the Committee includes the development of the City's first Accessibility Plan by September 30th, 2003.

The Members of the Committee appointed by City Council are:

- Councillor Mike Petryna (Chair),
- Elizabeth Lounsbury (Vice-Chair)
- Bob Bannister
- Nancy Baron
- Earl Black
- Shirley Childs
- Councillor Ron Dupuis

The Committee's initial work focussed on developing the Greater Sudbury Transit Accessibility Plan. After community consultation, Council approved the Plan in April of 2003.

For the preparation of the Accessibility Plan, the Committee has met eight times and held three community workshops with service providers. These community workshops included staff from all departments, and many of the local agencies currently working with people with disabilities in the community.

The committee also undertook a survey of people with disabilities and hosted three public meetings. Based on this extensive public process The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the plan. The detailed recommendations contained in the Plan are as follows:

## POLICY STATEMENT

***“City Council adopts this Policy of Universal Access. By adopting this policy, our services, programs and facilities will be accessible to people with disabilities regardless of the type of disability and age. Council understands that the implementation of this policy statement requires financial resources and changes on how we deliver service and build our infrastructure, from sidewalks to libraries. Towards this end, departmental Business Plans and budgets will be required to include specific initiatives to implement this policy over time in consultation with Council’s Accessibility Advisory Committee in a manner that is transparent to the community. The Council’s yearly Accessibility Plan will provide the policy direction to the departments for the implementation of this Policy on Universal Access.”***

## ACCESSIBILITY PLAN - RECOMMENDED ACTIONS 2003-2004

### POLICY

- Children Task Force to develop recommendations on how to implement the Children’s Charter for children with disabilities
- Official Plan reports underway and proposed to include sections on how to apply the Universal Access Policy and provide specific recommendations in consultation with the Accessibility Committee
- Departmental Business Plans to include section on Accessibility
- Each departmental budget to consider Accessibility in the capital projects
- Review 2003 Accessibility Plan – Prepare 2004 Accessibility Plan
- Merge Transit and City’s Accessibility Plans if allowed under current legislation
- Expand the membership of the committee to include the ranges of disabilities and service providers
- Develop a check list of accessibility standards as a condition of issuing permits for special occasions/festivals/concerts and public works tenders
- Design a policy to ensure availability of accessible taxis in our community as part of the Taxi By-law
- Undertake a cost-benefit analysis (including fine increases) for the 2004 Budget to retain members of the disabled community to enforce accessible parking by-laws



## **POLICY-Continued**

- Pool the revenues from accessible parking fines to assist in the implementation of this Plan
- Carry-out a functional review of the Handi-transit service
- Review the accessible parking requirements in the city's zoning by-laws.

## **CORPORATE**

- Train front line staff on how to better serve people with disabilities (Citizen Service Centres, transit operators, call Centre)
- Train staff to undertake physical, environmental access assessments for programs, services, and facilities
- Continue to implement policies to remove any barriers to current and future employees.

## **EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE**

- Undertake an inventory of skills and training gaps of people with disabilities in Greater Sudbury
- Develop an education campaign for business on the benefits of hiring people with disabilities

## **ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS**

- Initiate an assessment of accessibility for municipal facilities beginning with those buildings most accessed by the public such as:
  - Tom Davies Square
  - Citizen Service Centres/Libraries
  - Arenas/Community Centres
  - Older Adult Centre/Market
- Develop accessibility standards for road and intersection design
- Define accessibility criteria to be included in the Site Plan Control Guide

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- Redesign City's websites for accessibility
- Printed reports to be designed for accessibility upon request
- Develop guidelines for municipal signs and assess our facilities for implementation

## **ACCESS TO CITY'S RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS**

- Assess current recreational programs for accessibility
- Develop partnerships and costing with the community to deliver recreational programs that have been identified with the community with disabilities

## **ACCESSIBLE HOUSING**

- Develop an inventory of accessible units available
- Undertake a supply/demand analysis for accessible housing as part of the Official Plan Review Process