



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To:	Council
From:	Meaghen Reid, Director, Legislative & Legal Services/Town Clerk
Date:	July 15, 2024
Report No:	CORS-023-24
Subject:	2023 Accessibility Plan Status Update Report
Recommendation:	<p>THAT the 2023 Accessibility Status Report on the 2023-2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan attached as Appendix A, be received for information;</p> <p>THAT the Milton Transit Accessibility Plan, attached as Appendix B, be received for information.</p>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As required by Ontario Regulation 191/11-Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), this Accessibility Status Report will provide Council and the public the Town of Milton's progress with regards to the 2023-2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to prevent/remove barriers and meet requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

REPORT

Background

The AODA was passed in 2005 with the vision of creating a fully accessible Ontario by 2025. The AODA gave the Province the mandate to create sets of standards in accessibility which applies to both public and private sector organizations.

The IASR was enacted in July 2011 and establishes accessibility standards for information and communications, employment, transportation, the design of public spaces and customer service.

The Town of Milton released its 2023-2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, in accordance with the AODA and IASR. The plan outlined the Town's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility, which included how phased in requirements under the AODA will be met.

Discussion

Staff from across the Corporation have provided updates for the 2023 Accessibility Plan Status Report. Furthermore, the 2024 Milton Transit Accessibility Plan was prepared by Town staff and presented to the members of the Milton Accessibility Advisory Committee. It



Discussion

will also be posted on the Town's website for the public and to meet the requirements of the IASR.

2023 Accessibility Plan Status Report - included as Appendix A

The 2023 Accessibility Plan Status Report provides an update on actions the Town of Milton has taken to comply with the IASR, as well as additional activities aimed at identifying, preventing and removing barriers to persons with disabilities when accessing Town Programs, services and facilities.

2024 Milton Transit Accessibility Plan - included as Appendix B

The 2024 Milton Transit Accessibility Plan sets out how Milton Transit will continue to prevent and remove barriers to persons with disabilities and how it will ensure continued compliance with the IASR.

Financial Impact

The Town's accessibility plan is managed with existing staff resources. Where specific initiatives require an initial or on-going investments, funds are approved by Council in accordance with the Town's Budget Management Policy (Policy 113).

Respectfully submitted,

Kristene Scott
Commissioner, Corporate Services

For questions, please contact: Greta Susa, Manager of Legislative and Legal Services/Deputy Clerk Phone: 905-878-7252 ext. 2164

Attachments

Appendix A - 2023 Accessibility Status Report
Appendix B - 2024 Milton Transit Accessibility Plan

CAO Approval
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer



Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the HuronWendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.



The Corporation of the
Town of Milton

Appendix A
2023 Accessibility Status Report
2023-2028 Multi-Year
Accessibility Plan



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2023 Accessibility Status Report

Ontario Regulation 191/11- Integrated Accessibility Standards (IASR) to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requires that municipalities with 50 or more employees create a written multi-year accessibility plan that outlines the steps a municipality will take to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility. The IASR also requires that annual status reports on the progress of measures taken to implement the plan be prepared.

This 2023 accessibility status report provides an update on actions the Town of Milton (the Town) has taken to implement the Town's 2023-2028 Municipal Multi-Year Plan, which details the Town's strategy for meeting AODA and IASR requirements. This report will be posted on the Town of Milton's website (milton.ca). The 2023-2028 Municipal Multi-Year Plan is also available on milton.ca.

Legislation

Ontarians with Disabilities Act

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) was established in 2001 to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities. Effective December 1, 2015, twelve sections of the ODA were repealed as they were duplicated by the AODA or the IASR. This change has reduced the administrative burden on municipalities.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

In 2005, the Ontario Government passed the AODA to benefit all Ontarians by developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards. These standards work to achieve accessibility for persons with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises on or before January 1, 2025.

Ontario Regulation 191/11 – Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation

The IASR was enacted in July 2011 and establishes accessibility standards for information and communications, employment, transportation, the design of public spaces and customer service. The requirements apply to the public, private and not for profit sectors and have compliance dates ranging from 2011 to 2021.

More information on the AODA and the IASR can be found on <https://www.milton.ca/en/town-hall/town-hall-accessibility.aspx>

Town of Milton’s Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC)

The AODA requires that municipalities with a population of over 10,000 people must establish an accessibility advisory committee to advise Town Council on the preparation of accessibility plans and the achievement of actions within the plan.

The three main activities of an accessibility advisory committee are to:

1. Advise Town Council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards and the preparation of accessibility reports and other matters on which Council might seek its advice;
2. Review site plans and drawings described in Section 41 of the Planning Act; and
3. Perform all other functions that are specified in the Regulations.

MAAC, established in 2002, is a volunteer citizen advisory committee. It is comprised of between 5 and 7 members, the majority of which must be persons with disabilities, and one Town Council representative. Members are appointed by Council for their knowledge, experience and dedication to eliminating barriers and promoting universal accessibility.

MAAC’s mandate is to advise Council and staff on the promotion and facilitation of a barrier-free town for citizens of all abilities, including persons with disabilities.

Information related to the activities of MAAC are included within the status update provided below.

2023 Town of Milton’s Status Updates

2023-2028 Multi-year Accessibility Plan	Status Updates
Preparing an annual update on the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, as required by the IASR	This report is prepared for this purpose.
Submitting compliance reports to the Province in 2023, 2025 and 2027, demonstrating compliance with components of the IASR	The Town has submitted the compliance report for 2023 and will submit future compliance reports as required by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.
Reviewing existing accessibility procedures and updating them, as required	The Town continues to monitor and review existing accessibility policies to be in compliance with the AODA and IASR.



2023-2028 Multi-year Accessibility Plan	Status Updates
<p>Continuing to provide training to new staff on the IASR and the Ontario Human Rights Code as part of the Town’s onboarding process</p>	<p>The Town provides AODA/IASR Awareness trainings for its employees through its online training platform. The content of the AODA/IASR training courses will continue to be reviewed and updated through the vendor (HR Downloads) to ensure the information remains current.</p> <p>Completion of the training course is a mandatory requirement of the new hire process for employees. Some of the onboarding modules for new hire are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AODA Customer Services Standards Training • IASR: Information & Communications Standards and Employment standards • Understanding Human Rights Training (AODA Edition)
<p>Consulting with and seeking the input of MAAC on physical improvement projects and other Town initiatives</p>	<p>In 2022, MAAC has provided comments on 24 site plan reviews, including accessible parking spaces and accessible path of travel. Comments were provided to Planning staff. MAAC also provided comments on the Multi-year Accessibility Plan for 2023-2028, the 2022 Election Accessibility Plan and received the Town’s Accessibility Plan Status Report.</p> <p>In 2023, MAAC has provided comment on 15 site plan reviews, including accessible parking spaces and accessible path of travel. Comments were provided to Planning staff. MAAC also provided comments on accessibility features in parks, and received updates on the accessibility requirements in the</p>

2023-2028 Multi-year Accessibility Plan	Status Updates
	<p>Town's Zoning By-laws and Ontario Building Code.</p> <p>In addition, The Engineering and Parks Standards Manual (Standards) is updated frequently to ensure that municipal infrastructure is designed and constructed in accordance with the AODA Act and industry best practices by implementing the design recommendations outlined in the AODA Act and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Design of Public Spaces Standards (AODA-DOPS). An example of this includes establishing the minimum horizontal and vertical clear passageways for Town infrastructure such as sidewalks, trails and walkways into buildings.</p>
<p>Monitoring the review of accessibility legislation by the Province to determine impacts to the Town and reporting to Town Council, as appropriate</p>	<p>The Town continued to monitor the changes to the legislations. There was no change to the legislation in 2022-2023.</p>
<p>Complying with the accessibility requirements set out in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 when conducting the 2022 municipal and school board election</p>	<p>A number of initiatives were undertaken during the planning and implementation of the 2022 Municipal Election to identify, remove, and prevent barriers facing candidates and voters with disabilities. Post-Election, the Clerk prepared an Accessibility Report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities. This report was posted on the Town's website and made available to the public, as per Section 12(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.</p>
<p>Continuing to share information and network with accessibility staff from</p>	<p>During 2022-2023, Town staff continued to be part of ONAP network. Furthermore, Town staff</p>



2023-2028 Multi-year Accessibility Plan	Status Updates
Halton's municipalities, the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)	also attended information workshops hosted by AMCTO on converting accessible documents in 2020.
Updating all Town of Milton websites to WCAG 2.0 Level AA by January 1, 2021	<p>All Town of Milton websites are WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliant as of Jan. 1, 2021</p> <p>The Town is currently conducting a website redevelopment project that will result an updated content management system. As part of the RFP process, WCAG 2.0 Level AA is required, to ensure our website is accessible to our residents and partners, and meets legislative requirements.</p>
Working with the Town's web services vendor to make web page accessibility checking an automated step in page publication	As part of the Town's daily operations, SiteImprove is used to monitor and maintain accessibility compliance. When an issue is identified through SiteImprove the Town works to resolve the issue promptly. In the event the matter resides with the external content management system, the Town works with their vendor to ensure compliance.
Implementing a periodic spot check of web page accessibility by staff	As part of the Town's daily operations, all Town content and documents are required to be accessible before publishing content. Where content is third-party, the Town works with the partner/vendor to be compliant. Where not possible, the Town issues a statement on the web page indicating alternative formats can be attained through a request.
Continuing to take advantage of learning opportunities provided by the Accessibility	In 2022-2023, Town staff have taken part in formal/informal learning opportunities provided

2023-2028 Multi-year Accessibility Plan	Status Updates
Directorate of Ontario and accessibility forums	by AMCTO, and Accessibility training through Cure for Gravity on making documents accessible and remediation of document.

Next Steps

Town staff will continue to meet the requirements of the AODA and IASR and undertake further actions to prevent and eliminate barriers to persons with accessibilities. They include the following:

- Preparing an annual update on the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, as required by the IASR;
- Submitting compliance reports to the Province in 2023, 2025 and 2027, demonstrating compliance with components of the IASR;
- Reviewing existing accessibility procedures and updating them, as required;
- Continuing to provide training to new staff on the IASR and the Ontario Human Rights Code as part of the Town’s onboarding process;
- Continuing to maintain annual Transit Accessibility Plan as required by IASR;
- Consulting with and seeking the input of MAAC on physical improvement projects and other Town initiatives;
- Monitoring the review of accessibility legislation by the Province to determine impacts to the Town and reporting to Town Council, as appropriate;
- Complying with the accessibility requirements set out in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 when conducting any municipal and school board election;
- Continuing to share information and network with accessibility staff from Halton’s municipalities, the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario;
- Continuing to ensure all Town of Milton websites and social media accounts are compliant with IASR;
- Continuing to take advantage of learning opportunities provided by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario and accessibility forums.