

Accessibility Policy



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Administration & Finance	October 18, 2016	121-2016	1	5
Subsection	Repeals By-law Number		Policy Number	
Accessibility	127-2013		AF-10-2	

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Corporation of the City of Kenora that all people achieve accessibility, consistent with the principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Purpose

This Policy is intended to provide the overarching framework to guide the review and development of other policies, standards, procedures, By-laws and guidelines of The City of Kenora (City) in order to comply with the standards developed under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005, the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service established by Ontario Regulation 429.07, and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) established by Ontario Regulation 191/1, and all regulation pursuant to this Act.

Application

This Policy applies to all City employees, volunteers, and to third parties who provide goods, services or facilities to the public on behalf of the City and who develop policies on behalf of the City.

Principles

The City of Kenora:

- Is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence.
- Believes in inclusion and equal opportunity
- Is committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner,
- Is committed to preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

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General Requirements

The City of Kenora is a designated public sector organization under the AODA and is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities.

Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is established by City Council. It is required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The Committee is responsible for advising City Council on the development and implementation of the Municipal Accessibility Plan and advising Council on issues relating to citizens with a disability.

Accessibility Plans and Policies

The City shall produce a Multi-year Accessibility Plan. The Multi-year Accessibility Plan will be:

- Reviewed and updated at least every five years, and
- Established, reviewed and updated in consultation with persons with disabilities and the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

If through public consultation, feedback, and our own accessibility action and planning processes, it is determined that the Multi-year Accessibility Plan needs revision, the City of Kenora will update it to reflect these insights.

The City of Kenora has an internal Administrative Accessibility Committee that meets regularly to review progress in meeting the requirements of the AODA and to monitor progress on implementing the accessibility plan and to determine that barrier-removal and barrier-prevention strategies are implemented effectively.

An annual status report on the progress of measures taken to implement the multiyear accessibility plan will be prepared. The Multi-year Accessibility Plan and accompanying status report will be posted on the City's web-site and provided in an accessible format upon request.

Procurement

When procuring goods, services, self-service kiosks or facilities, the City shall incorporate accessibility criteria and features, unless it is not feasible (practicable). If not practicable, the City shall provide an explanation, upon request.

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Training

All City employees, volunteers and third parties providing goods and services to members of the public on the City's behalf, as well as those who develop the policies, practices and procedures governing the provision of goods or services to member of the public or other third parties will receive accessibility training.

This training shall include:

- A review of the purposes of the AODA and the requirements of the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (Ontario regulation 429/07)
- A review of the requirements of the accessibility standards referred to in the AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards (Ontario Regulation 191/110) and on the Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities.

The training provided shall be appropriate to the duties of the employee, volunteer or third party. Training shall take place as soon as is practical and upon completion, the City shall keep a record of the training provided including the dates on which accessibility training took place.

Information and Communications

Accessible Formats and Communication Supports

Except as otherwise provided by the AODA, the City shall, upon request, and in consultation with the person making the request, provide or make arrangements to provide accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities. Accessible formats and communication supports shall be provided in a timely manner, taking into account the person's accessibility needs and at a cost that is not more than the regular cost charged to other persons.

Websites and Web Content

Internet websites and web content controlled directly by the City will conform to the World Wide Web Content Accessibility

Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 in accordance with the schedule set out in the Information and Communication Standards of the IASR.

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Transportation

The City is committed to ensuring accessible public transportation services are available through both conventional and specialized transit services in accordance with Transportation Standards of the IASR.

Built Environment

The City shall comply with the AODA Design of Public Spaces Standards (Accessibility Standards for The Built Environment) when undertaking new construction and redevelopment of public spaces in the following areas:

- Recreational trails and beach access routes;
- Outdoor public use eating areas;
- Outdoor play spaces;
- Exterior paths of travel;
- Accessible Parking;
- Obtaining Services; and
- Maintenance of accessible elements.

This policy does not apply to construction that is external to the City for which the City has provided a permit however compliance with the AODA Built Environment Standards should be encouraged.

The City shall ensure that the City's Accessibility Design Standards reflect the AODA Built Environment Standards.

Customer Service Standards

The City of Kenora is committed to the provision of excellent customer service. The Accessibility Policy Number LS-4-1 effective since in August 13, 2009, outlined the customer service standards as required by the AODA. The contents of the Policy are now included in this document where appropriate.

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Guide Dogs, Service Animals

If a person with a disability is accompanied by a guide dog or other service animal, the City will permit the person to enter the premises with the animal and keep it with him or her, unless the animal is otherwise excluded by law from the premises. If the service animal or guide dog is excluded by law from the premises, the City will look to other available measures to enable the person with a disability to obtain, use or benefit from the City's goods and services.

Support Persons

If a person with a disability is accompanied by a support person, they are permitted to enter the premises together and are not prevented from having access to each other while on the premises. The City may require a person with a disability to be accompanied by a support person while on its premises, but only if a support person is necessary to protect the health or safety of the person with a disability or the health or safety of others on the premises. In such a situation, where a support person is deemed necessary the City of Kenora will waive the admission fee or fare for the support person, if one exists.

Disruption of Services

If there is a temporary disruption in a particular facility or service used to allow a person with a disability to access good or service, the City will give notice of the disruption to the public.

Assistive Devices

If a person with a disability requires assistive devices to access good or service of the City they are allowed to use such devices.

Accessibility Feedback

The City of Kenora has an accessible feedback process. Feedback on how services are delivered to people with disabilities shall be invited, forwarded to the appropriate personnel, responded to, documented and tracked. Feedback can be provided in multiple formats including in person, by mail, phone, email and TTY.

Non Compliance

Failure to comply with the AODA regulations can result in administrative penalties as defined in Part V: Compliance of the Integrated Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 191/11. Employees who fail to comply with this policy may be subject to disciplinary action. Agents who fail to comply with this policy may be subject to contract termination.