
City Of North Bay

Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC)

2014 Annual Report

Background

This report reflects activities undertaken by the North Bay Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee during 2014 and plans for 2015.

Summary of Activities – Year 2014

Committee Membership – 2014

Nora Long (Chair)
Emma Langdon (Vice-Chair)
Denise Alkins
Adam Miller
Sharon Moseley-Williams
Barbra Smith
Jo-Ann Wilson
Councillor Mac Bain (City Council Representative)

Staff:

Kathleen Fralic (Secretary-Treasurer)
Remi Renaud (City Transit Representative)

a) Meetings of the Committee

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee met eight (8) times in 2014. Meetings generally take place the first Thursday of every month, at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

b) Guest Speakers

MAAC meetings are regularly attended by City Staff. This allows Staff to receive important feedback regarding accessibility issues that may impact projects. It is also an opportunity for MAAC members to gain a greater understanding of the internal processes at City Hall.

Guest speakers in 2014 included Beverley Hillier (Manager, Planning Services), David Euler (Managing Director, Engineering, Environmental and Works) and Rheume Bellehumeur (Manager, Facilities). Sergeant Rick Dubeau of the North Bay Police Service also attended a meeting to consult the Committee.

c) Consultations

City Staff consulted with MAAC throughout 2014. Some specific examples of projects or regulations that MAAC provided comments on include:

- Aquatic Centre accessibility upgrades;
- Tourist Information Centre accessibility upgrades;
- Memorial Gardens seating;
- Accessible taxi service in North Bay;
- College Drive sidewalk upgrades;
- Snow removal for accessible parking spaces in the downtown; and
- Accessibility measures for the 2014 Municipal Election.

MAAC members were also invited to tour the North Bay Public Library. The Committee provided feedback and suggestions regarding the accessibility of the building.

In addition, MAAC reviewed changes proposed by the Province to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Customer Service Standard. The Committee did not identify any concerns related to the proposed changes.

d) Awareness Initiatives

MAAC held their annual Accessibility Awareness Week Event at the North Bay Transit Terminal on June 4th, 2014. The event has been held annually for the past 6 years. The purpose of the event is to raise public awareness of accessibility issues and showcase city accessibility initiatives. The event is also an opportunity for other community organizations to inform the public about accessibility related initiatives and services they offer.

e) Communication with City's Internal Accessibility Committee

Remi Renaud provided the MAAC with updates from the City's Internal Accessibility Committee. This allowed the Committee to learn of progress made to increase accessibility within the City.

f) 2015 Work Program

The Committee and staff are preparing a formal work program for 2015. This program may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Inform Council of Provincial Standards and Legislation, as they become available.
2. Continue to increase community awareness of accessibility issues.
3. Review and comment on plans for capital upgrades of municipal facilities.
4. Host guest speakers from various municipal departments and outside agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nora Long, Chair
North Bay Municipal Accessibility
Advisory Committee