Joint Accessibility Plan: Annual Status Update

2013

County of Perth

Municipality of North Perth

Township of Perth South

Township of Perth East

Municipality of West Perth

This document is available in alternative formats, upon request.

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County of Perth Joint Accessibility Plan Annual Status Update 2013

Executive Summary

This update to the multi-year Accessibility Plan outlines the commitment that the County of Perth has made to create an accessible organization by identifying, removing and preventing barriers for people with disabilities. This plan was established, reviewed and updated in consultation with persons with disabilities and with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), in order to create a cross-county accessibility plan with the County of Perth, the Municipality of North Perth, the Township of Perth South, the Township of Perth East, and the Municipality of West Perth. It incorporates the intentions of the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities to meet its obligations under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

This plan will be posted on the County's website, as well as the Member Municipalities websites, and shall be made available in an accessible format and with communication supports, upon request.

Obligations

Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)

The ODA was passed into law "to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their full involvement in the identification, prevention and removal of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province."

The ODA requires municipalities to prepare annual accessibility plans and to consult with an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on the contents of the plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in each municipality's by-laws, policies, practices and services. The accessibility plan must be made available to the public, and in alternative formats, upon request.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)

The AODA sets out a road map for an accessible Ontario by 2025 with mandatory and enforceable standards including:

- Customer Service Standards
- Information and Communications Standards
- Employment Standards
- Transportation Standards
- Built Environment Standards

The Customer Service Standard became law (Ontario Regulation 429/07) on January 1, 2008, and the County of Perth and the Member Municipalities have complied with this standard since January 1, 2010.

The next three standards – Information and Communication, Employment and Transportation – are all part of the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation or IASR (Ontario Regulation 191/11), which became law on June 7, 2011. The requirements for this standard will be phased in over time between 2011 and 2021.

The accessibility standards for the Built Environment focus on removing barriers in two areas:

1. **Public Spaces:** the Design of Public Spaces Standard became law in December 2012. This standard applies only to new constructions or major renovations being designed for outdoor elements. Jointly, the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities must comply with this standard by January 1, 2016.

2. **Buildings:** Ontario's Building Code has been amended to include enhancements to accessibility in buildings. As of January 1, 2015, new construction and renovations will be subject to updated accessibility requirements.

Consultation

This plan has been developed in consultation with the Perth County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The AAC currently has eight (8) voting positions, which provide representation for each Municipality within Perth County, consistent with the expectations of the ODA, 2001.

Implementation

The County of Perth and its Member Municipalities support the spirit and goals of the AODA to make the Province of Ontario accessible by 2025. A commitment has been made to identify and eliminate wherever possible, all forms of barriers faced by people with disabilities, including:

- Attitudinal
- Physical
- Architectural
- Policy/Practices
- Technological
- Information and Communications
- Legislative

Structure and Governance

The Human Resources Division of the Office of the CAO, the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Accessibility Coordinator are responsible at a corporate level for ensuring compliance to the AODA, and sharing legislative analyses and subject matter expertise. The County of Perth and each of its Member Municipalities are separately responsible for ensuring that all departments with their Municipalities are compliant with the Standards contained within the AODA. Each department is accountable for ensuring that their respective clauses are executed according to the legislative requirements to the service industry.

Informal consulting groups will be developed on an ad hoc basis for variable terms to assist in policy and procedure review and development and implementation.

This plan is subject to approval by the County of Perth Council and all Member Municipalities Councils.

Municipal Jurisdictions Participating in this Plan

The Corporation of the County of Perth

1 Huron Street
Stratford, ON N5A 5S4

Member Municipalities

The Municipality of North Perth
330 Wallace Ave N
Listowel, ON N4W 1L3

The Township of Perth South
3191 Road 122
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0

The Township of Perth East
P.O. Box 455
25 Mill Street E
Milverton, ON N0K 1M0

The Municipality of West Perth
P.O. Box 609
169 David Street
Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0

Key Contact

Julia Opie, Accessibility Coordinator
Corporation of the County of Perth
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Our Progress on the AODA Regulations

The following outlines our commitments and our progress in 2013 in meeting the accessibility standards in five key areas:

- Customer Service
- Information & Communication
- Employment
- Transportation
- Built Environment

There are also a number of General Requirements that apply across all of the accessibility standards.

General Requirements

Procurement

People with disabilities will be treated equitably with respect to the procurement, use and benefit of County services, programs, goods and facilities in a manner that respects their dignity, independence, and integration. This commitment extends to residents, employees, visitors and other stakeholders with visible and non-visible disabilities. Furthermore, the County will ensure that accessibility is integrated into all County initiatives, business practices, boards, committees, departments and divisions. Where it is not practicable to incorporate accessibility criteria and features into the procurement of goods, services or facilities, an explanation will be provided, upon request.

Reporting

Reports will be produced annually on the progress and implementation of this plan, and this information will be posted on our websites and will be available in alternate formats, upon request. The Multi-Year Plan will be reviewed and updated once every five years. Compliance Reports will be filed with Service Ontario by the County and the Member Municipalities, as required.

Training

By January 1, 2014, all employees, volunteers and persons developing policies for the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities have been trained on the requirements of the accessibility standards in the IASR and on the Human Rights Code. Persons who provide goods, services or facilities on behalf of the County must also be trained. Whenever changes to accessibility policies occur, training will be provided in order to ensure an understanding of any changes.

Records have been maintained for training provided on accessibility, including the dates of the training and the number of individuals who attended.

Feedback

The County of Perth and its Member Municipalities welcome input from the public in order to help identify ways in which we can improve accessibility in facilities, goods and services. Members of the public are encouraged to share their comments or suggestions by contacting the Accessibility Coordinator at the County of Perth or complete the Contact Us section on the County of Perth website.

Phone: 519-271-0531 x 141
Email: accessibility@perthcounty.ca
Mail: Accessibility Coordinator
              Corporation of the County of Perth
              1 Huron Street
              Stratford, ON N5A 5S4

Accessible Customer Service Standard

(Ontario Regulation 429/07)

Commitment

The County of Perth and its Member Municipalities are committed to providing equal treatment to people with disabilities with respect to the use and benefit of County services, programs, goods and facilities in a manner that respects their dignity, independence, integration and is equitable in relation to the broader public. This commitment extends to residents, employees, visitors and other stakeholders with visible and non-visible disabilities.

Progress

The Corporation of the County of Perth

Accomplishments:

- o Compliance Report filed with Service Ontario
- o Completion and approval by County Council of the County of Perth Corporate Accessibility Policy.
- o Created an online Accessible Customer Service training module in Moodle for new employees
- o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee worked with the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys to create the Community in Motion Accessibility Fair, which features organizations, and businesses who provide goods and services to persons with disabilities and others who face barriers in the community.
- o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities by working with the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) to hold awareness activities at several schools.

Goals

- o Continue to train all staff, volunteers and contractors who serve the public or make policies that shape how services are delivered.
- o Continue to train new employees, contractors and companies submitting tenders
- o Continue to review and update policies, procedures and practices regularly to ensure high quality, accessible customer service.
- o Continue to file compliance reports as required with Service Ontario
- o Continue to consult, research and implement improvements to County services, programs, goods and facilities as they relate to the Accessible Customer Service Standard.

o Creation of a Perth County Public Washrooms Map to identify the location of public washrooms and their degree of accessibility throughout the County of Perth, including the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys public buildings.

Municipality of North Perth

Accomplishments:

o Compliance Report filed with Service Ontario October 2013
o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee worked with the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys to create the Community in Motion Accessibility Fair, which features organizations, and businesses who provide goods and services to persons with disabilities and others who face barriers in the community.
o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities by working with the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) to hold awareness activities at several schools.

Goals:

o Completion and approval by Township Council of the North Perth Corporate Accessibility Policy.
o Create a new promotional video, including Accessible North Perth
o Continue to train all staff, volunteers and contractors who serve the public or make policies that shape how services are delivered.
o Continue to review and update policies, procedures and practices regularly to ensure high quality, accessible customer service.
o Continue to file compliance reports as required with Service Ontario
o Continue to consult, research and implement improvements to Municipality of North Perth services, programs, goods and facilities as they relate to the Accessible Customer Service Standard, with guidance from the County of Perth Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Perth South

Accomplishments:

o Compliance Report filed with Service Ontario December 2013
o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee worked with the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys to create the Community in Motion Accessibility Fair, which features organizations, and businesses who provide goods and services to persons with disabilities and others who face barriers in the community.
o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities by working with the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) to hold awareness activities at several schools.

Goals:

- o Completion and approval by Township Council of the Perth South Corporate Accessibility Policy.
- o Continue to train all staff, volunteers and contractors who serve the public or make policies that shape how services are delivered.
- o Continue to train new employees, contractors and companies submitting tenders
- o Continue to review and update policies, procedures and practices regularly to ensure high quality, accessible customer service.
- o Continue to file compliance reports as required with Service Ontario
- o Continue to consult, research and implement improvements to Township of Perth South services, programs, goods and facilities as they relate to the Accessible Customer Service Standard, with guidance from the County of Perth Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Perth East

Accomplishments:

- o Compliance Report filed with Service Ontario December 2013
- o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee worked with the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys to create the Community in Motion Accessibility Fair, which features organizations, and businesses who provide goods and services to persons with disabilities and others who face barriers in the community.
- o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities by working with the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) to hold awareness activities at several schools.

Goals:

- o Completion and approval by Township Council of the Perth East Corporate Accessibility Policy.
- o Continue to train all staff, volunteers and contractors who serve the public or make policies that shape how services are delivered.
- o Continue to review and update policies, procedures and practices regularly to ensure high quality, accessible customer service.
- o Continue to file compliance reports as required with Service Ontario
- o Continue to consult, research and implement improvements to Township of Perth East services, programs, goods and facilities as they relate to the Accessible Customer Service Standard, with guidance from the County of Perth Accessibility Coordinator.

The Municipality of West Perth

Accomplishments:

- o Compliance Report filed with Service Ontario December 2013
- o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee worked with the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys to create the Community in Motion Accessibility Fair, which features organizations, and businesses who provide goods and services to persons with disabilities and others who face barriers in the community.
- o Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities by working with the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) to hold awareness activities at several schools.

Goals:

- o Completion and approval of the Corporate Accessibility Policy by Municipality of West Perth Council
- o Continue to train all staff, volunteers and contractors who serve the public or make policies that shape how services are delivered.
- o Continue to review and update policies, procedures and practices regularly to ensure high quality, accessible customer service.
- o Continue to file compliance reports as required with Service Ontario
- o Continue to consult, research and implement improvements to Municipality of West Perth services, programs, goods and facilities as they relate to the Accessible Customer Service Standard, with guidance from the County of Perth Accessibility Coordinator.

Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation Ontario

(Ontario Regulation 191/11)

Information and Communications Standard

Commitment

The County of Perth and its Member Municipalities are committed to ensuring that information and communications about our goods, services and facilities are available and accessible to people with disabilities. The County and its Member Municipalities will follow universal design principles and best practices as a minimum, based upon the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Information and Communications Standard of the IASR, when developing, implementing and maintaining information and communication strategies and products. This includes website, intranet sites, communication materials, telephone communications and face-to-face interactions. If our organization determines that it is not technically feasible to convert the information or communications, or the technology to convert the information is not readily available, we will be obligated to provide the person who requires the information with an explanation as to why the information or communications are unconvertible, and with a summary of the unconvertible information or communications.

Progress

The Corporation of the County of Perth

Accomplishments:

- o Accessibility Coordinator attended training on Creating Accessible Documents.
- o County employees trained on the Information and Communications Standard through online Moodle module or instructor led sessions, as applicable to their duties.
- o Created Accessible Communications Guidelines booklet.
- o Created and distributed Internal & External Communications Survey for County employees to complete (per the Corporate Strategic Plan).

Goals:

- o Create training materials, and train designated employees at the County and Member Municipalities on Creating Accessible Documents - by January 1, 2015.
- o Ensure that all documentation uploaded to the County Internet Website and Intranet Website, is in an accessible format – from 2012 and no later than January 1, 2021.
- o Assist in the creation of a Communications Plan / Policy - by January 1, 2015.

- o Ensure that the County of Perth internet and intranet websites and web content, with some exceptions, conform to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA by January 1, 2021.
- o Efforts to provide accessible/alternate formats at the Stratford-Perth Archives will be continued, upon request, considering new technologies for converting archival materials as they become available.

Municipality of North Perth

Accomplishments:

- o Created and distributed Internal & External Communications Survey for North Perth employees to complete (per the Corporate Strategic Plan).
- o Three employees have attended training on creating accessible documents.
- o Employees trained on the Information and Communications Standard through "AccessForward" online module or instructor led sessions, as applicable to their duties.
- o Ensuring that documents uploaded to the North Perth website are in an accessible format.

Goals:

- o Create Accessible Communications Guidelines, and choose designated employees to attend Accessible Documents training provided by the County – Fall 2014.
- o Create a Communications Policy for North Perth by January 1, 2015.
- o Ensure that all documentation uploaded to the North Perth Internet Website, is in an accessible format – from 2012 and no later than January 1, 2021.
- o North Perth Public Library will continue to develop their policies for accessible documents.

Township of Perth South

Accomplishments:

- o Township of Perth employees trained on the Information and Communications Standard through "AccessForward" online module or instructor led sessions, as applicable to their duties.
- o Created and distributed Internal & External Communications Survey for Township of Perth South employees to complete (per the Corporate Strategic Plan).
- o Installed a microphone system in the Perth South Council Chambers to improve audio for the public.
- o Audio recordings of Council meetings are now available on Perth South website.

Goals:

- o Choose designated employees to attend Accessible Documents training provided by the County – Fall 2014.
- o Ensure that all documentation uploaded to the Perth South Internet Website, is in an accessible format – from 2012 and no later than January 1, 2021.
- o Create a Communications Policy for Perth South by January 1, 2015.

Township of Perth East

Accomplishments:

- o Designated employee attended training on Creating Accessible Documents.
- o Perth East employees trained on the Information and Communications Standard through online "AccessForward" module or instructor led sessions, as applicable to their duties.
- o Created and distributed Internal Communications Survey for Perth East employees and council to complete (per the Corporate Strategic Plan).

Goals:

- o Choose more employees to attend Accessible Documents training provided by the County – Fall 2014.
- o Ensure that all documentation uploaded to the Perth East Internet Website is in an accessible format – from 2012 and no later than January 1, 2021.
- o Create a Communications Policy for Perth East by January 1, 2015.

Municipality of West Perth

Accomplishments:

- o West Perth employees trained on the Information and Communications Standard through online "AccessForward" module or instructor led sessions, as applicable to their duties.
- o Created a Communications Plan for West Perth.
- o Created and distributed Internal Communications Survey for West Perth employees to complete (per the Corporate Strategic Plan).

Goals:

- o Choose employees to attend Accessible Documents training provided by the County – Fall 2014.
- o Ensure that all documentation uploaded to the West Perth Internet Website, is in an accessible format – from 2012 and no later than January 1, 2021.

Employment Standard

Commitment

A commitment has been made by the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities to inclusive and accessible employment practices that ensure the process of finding, hiring and retaining employees who have disabilities is inclusive.

Progress

The Corporation of the County of Perth

Accomplishments:

Met the requirements of the Employment Standard by January 1, 2014, as outlined in ON Reg. 191/11, which includes the following:

- o Removed any barriers to employment and facilitated accessible recruiting by building on current policies and procedures.
- o Reviewed and updated current accessible recruiting and employment guidelines, tools and templates
- o Reviewed and updated policies & procedures for accommodating employees with disabilities.
- o Trained Managers & Supervisors so that they gain an understanding of their obligations under the AODA regulations
- o Enhanced existing Workplace Emergency Response policies and procedures, including documentation methods for individual accommodation plans, as required.
- o Human Resources Manager reviewed and updated the current Return to Work process to ensure that it complied with the Employment Standard
- o Reviewed and updated the current Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment Policies in order to ensure compliance with Sections 30-32 of ON Reg. 191/11.

Goals:

- o Continue to ensure that any barriers to employment are removed and update policies accordingly.

Municipality of North Perth

Accomplishments:

- o Removed any barriers to employment and facilitated accessible recruiting by building on current policies and procedures.
- o Reviewed and updated current accessible recruiting and employment guidelines, tools and templates. – policy updates to be completed 2014.

- Reviewed and updated policies & procedures for accommodating employees with disabilities
- Trained Managers & Supervisors so that they gain an understanding of their obligations under the AODA regulations
- Human Resources Coordinator reviewed and updated the current Return to Work process to ensure that it complied with the Employment Standard
- Reviewed and updated the current Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment Policies in order to ensure compliance with Sections 30-32 of ON Reg. 191/11.

Goals:

- Continue to ensure that any barriers to employment are removed and update policies accordingly.

Township of Perth South

Accomplishments:

- Removed any barriers to employment and facilitated accessible recruiting by building on current policies and procedures.
- Reviewed and updated current accessible recruiting and employment guidelines, tools and templates
- Reviewed and updated policies & procedures for accommodating employees with disabilities.
- Trained Managers & Supervisors so that they gain an understanding of their obligations under the AODA regulations
- Enhanced existing Workplace Emergency Response policies and procedures, including documentation methods for individual accommodation plans, as required.
- Compliant with Section 13 of ON Reg. 191/11: Emergency Procedures, Plans or Public Safety Information
- Reviewed and updated the current Return to Work process to ensure that it complied with the Employment Standard
- Reviewed and updated the current Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment Policies in order to ensure compliance with Sections 30-32 of ON Reg. 191/11.
- Surveyed all Township employees for accessibility needs in times of emergency and had employees sign-off on needs

Goals:

- Continue to ensure that any barriers to employment are removed and update policies accordingly.

Township of Perth East

Accomplishments:

- Removed any barriers to employment and facilitated accessible recruiting by building on current policies and procedures.
- Reviewed and updated current accessible recruiting and employment guidelines, tools and templates
- Reviewed and updated policies & procedures for accommodating employees with disabilities.
- Trained Managers & Supervisors so that they gain an understanding of their obligations under the AODA regulations
- Enhanced existing Workplace Emergency Response policies and procedures, including documentation methods for individual accommodation plans, as required.
- Human Resources Coordinator reviewed and updated the current Return to Work process to ensure that it complied with the Employment Standard
- Reviewed and updated the current Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment Policies in order to ensure compliance with Sections 30-32 of ON Reg. 191/11.

Goals:

- Continue to ensure that any barriers to employment are removed and update policies accordingly.

Municipality of West Perth

Accomplishments:

- Removed any barriers to employment and facilitated accessible recruiting by building on current policies and procedures.
- Reviewed and updated current accessible recruiting and employment guidelines, tools and templates
- Reviewed and updated policies & procedures for accommodating employees with disabilities.
- Trained Managers & Supervisors so that they gain an understanding of their obligations under the AODA regulations
- Enhanced existing Workplace Emergency Response policies and procedures, including documentation methods for individual accommodation plans, as required.

Goals:

- Review and update the current Return to Work process to ensure that it complies with the Employment Standard

- o Review and update the current Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment Policies in order to ensure compliance with Sections 30-32 of ON Reg. 191/11.
- o Continue to ensure that any barriers to employment are removed and update policies accordingly.

Transportation Standard

Commitment

The County of Perth is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have access to accessible public transportation.

The County of Perth and its member Municipalities do not currently license any conventional, specialized or public transportation services, not does the County license taxicabs. Of the four lower tiers, only the Municipalities of North and West Perth license taxicabs.

Duties of Municipalities – Taxicabs

Progress

The Corporation of the County of Perth

Goals:

- o The County of Perth has no obligations to meet under the Transportation Standard of the IASR, however the County is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have information on accessible public transportation services available within the County. In order to meet this commitment, the Accessibility Coordinator will compile and maintain a listing of available accessible transportation services provided by organizations servicing the lower tier municipalities, the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys, and surrounding areas within the County of Perth. This listing will be posted on the County website, and will be available in alternate formats, upon request.

Municipality of North Perth

Accomplishments:

By-law 1135-2012 is in effect.

Goals:

- o Continue to consult with the AAC, all licensed Taxicab companies, the public and persons with disabilities regarding the proportion of on-demand accessible taxicabs required in North Perth – ongoing.

- Work with licensed taxicab companies to bring accessible taxicabs to North Perth – ongoing. Working on Braille documents to be added to the taxicabs.
- Annual progress report on how the Municipality of North Perth will meet the needs of people requiring accessible on-demand taxicabs. At this point, the demand is currently being met by the VON Mobility Bus.
- New taxi ID Plates will be purchased and distributed.

Municipality of West Perth

Accomplishments:

By-law 123-2012 is in effect.

Goals:

- Continue to consult with the AAC, all licensed Taxicab companies, the public and persons with disabilities regarding the proportion of on-demand accessible taxicabs required in West Perth – ongoing.
- Work with licensed taxicab companies to bring accessible taxicabs to West Perth – ongoing. There are currently no accessible taxicabs in West Perth.
- Annually report progress on how the Municipality of West Perth will meet the needs of people requiring accessible on-demand taxicabs.

Duties of Municipalities – Specialized Transportation Services

The County of Perth and three of the Member Municipalities do not license Specialized Transportation Services for persons with disabilities. However, there are some Specialized Transportation services available within these communities, including:

- **VON – Easy Ride** – for residents of North Perth
- **Perth East Transportation** – for residents of Perth East

There are also Specialized Transportation Services within the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys, which will travel to locations within the County of Perth, including:

- **Parallel Transit** – Located in the City of Stratford, but will travel to locations in Perth County
- **Easy Ride** – Located in the City of Stratford, but will travel to locations in Perth County
- **St. Marys & Area Mobility Services** – Located in St. Marys, but will travel to locations in Perth County.

Progress

Municipality of West Perth

- **Mitchell and Area Mobility Bus** – residents of West Perth, and anyone who can show proof of eligibility in any other paratransit service in Ontario, can use this service.

Accomplishments:

By-law 123-2012 is in effect.

Goals:

- **Review and update agreement and operation of the Mobility Bus to ensure compliance to the Requirements for Specialized Transportation Services as outlined in the IASR – Transportation Standard, including references to:**
  - Categories of Eligibility – by January 1, 2017
  - Eligibility Application Process – by January 1, 2014
  - Emergency or Compassionate Grounds – by January 1, 2014
  - Fare Parity – by January 1, 2017
  - Hours of Service – by January 1, 2017
  - Bookings – by January 1, 2014
  - Trip Restrictions – by January 1, 2014

The Built Environment

Commitment

The Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment focus on removing barriers in two areas:

1. public spaces, and
2. buildings.

This will make it easier for all Ontarians — including people with disabilities, seniors and families — to access the places where they work, travel, shop and play.

As a large public sector organization, the Design of Public Spaces Standard only applies to new construction and planned redevelopment on or after January 1, 2016.

Ontario's Building Code has been amended to include enhancements to accessibility in buildings. As of January 1, 2015, new construction and renovations will be subject to updated accessibility requirements

Progress

1. The Corporation of the County of Perth

Accomplishments

- o Improved the Lift Procedure in the County Courthouse to expedite response time.
- o Added an "Expectant Mothers & Familes with Small Children" parking space at the County Courthouse.

Goals

- o To meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code by January 1, 2015, and the Design of Public Spaces Standard by January 1, 2016.
- o Create an Accessibility Design Guideline to be used by the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities for County buildings, structures or premises that the County Council or Lower Tier Councils purchase, lease, construct or significantly renovate.
- o Plan and build a new Perth County Archives Building, incorporating the Design of Public Spaces Standard and changes to the Ontario Building Code.
- o Plan and re-build the Mitchell Public Works Buildings, incorporating the Design of Public Spaces Standard and changes to the Ontario Building Code.
- o Plan and build a new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Building in Stratford, incorporating the Design of Public Spaces Standard and changes to the Ontario Building Code.
- o Continue to refer to the Ontario Building Code for any new construction or re-development, as well as the Design of Public Spaces Standard to ensure compliance.

2. Municipality of North Perth

Accomplishments

- o Elma Logan Recreation Complex addition is fully accessible, including washrooms and door openers.
- o Accessible Splash Pad in Memorial park completed and existing wading pool replaced and opened Summer of 2013.
- o A Site Plan Review Process has been implemented.

Goals

- o To meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code by January 1, 2015, and the Design of Public Spaces Standard by January 1, 2016.
- o Create an Accessibility Design Guideline to be used by the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities for County buildings, structures or premises that the County Council or Lower Tier Councils purchase, lease, construct or significantly renovate.

- o Continue to refer to the Ontario Building Code for any new construction or re-development, as well as the Design of Public Spaces Standard to ensure compliance.
- o Improve access to the accessible washroom at the Municipal Office
- o Plan fully accessible Day Care Centre, Cemetery and Recreation Facility, including washrooms and door openers.
- o Pave a portion of the trail to Binning Street to increase the accessibility to the trail system.
- o Plans for the redesign of the downtown streetscapes for Atwood, Monkton and Listowel are to incorporate accessibility.

3. Township of Perth South

Accomplishments

- o Replaced part of existing sidewalk with 1.5 metre wide walk, including curb cuts at intersections in Sebringville.
- o Improved lighting at Downie Optimist Hall
- o Replaced concrete curb with a ramp at the front sidewalk entrance to the Township building
- o Installed automatic door opener on Township Office public washroom
- o Widening of concrete pad in front of washrooms at Downie Recreation booth in anticipation of wheelchair access to public washrooms.

Goals

- o To meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code by January 1, 2015, and the Design of Public Spaces Standard by January 1, 2016.
- o Create an Accessibility Design Guideline to be used by the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities for County buildings, structures or premises that the County Council or Lower Tier Councils purchase, lease, construct or significantly renovate.
- o Continue to refer to the Ontario Building Code for any new construction or re-development, as well as the Design of Public Spaces Standard to ensure compliance.
- o Finish replacing existing sidewalk with 1.5 metre wide walk in Sebringville, including curb cuts at intersections.
- o Build an accessible walkway to the recreation fields in St. Pauls

4. Township of Perth East

Accomplishments

- o Administrative Office, Milverton:
    - o New asphalt for entire parking lot and elimination of curb obstacles (sidewalk and parking lot are equal height)

- o New asphalt painting, markings and signage showing accessible parking areas.
  - o Parking Lot, Mill Street East, Milverton
    - o New asphalt for entire parking lot
    - o New asphalt painting, markings and signage showing accessible parking areas.
  - o Rostock Hall, Rostock
    - o New sidewalk in front of facility to eliminate step barrier.

Goals

- o To meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code by January 1, 2015, and the Design of Public Spaces Standard by January 1, 2016.
- o Create an Accessibility Design Guideline to be used by the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities for County buildings, structures or premises that the County Council or Lower Tier Councils purchase, lease, construct or significantly renovate.
- o Continue to refer to the Ontario Building Code for any new construction or re-development, as well as the Design of Public Spaces Standard to ensure compliance.

5. Municipality of West Perth

Accomplishments

- o Accessible washroom built at the Welcome Centre
- o Updates to Mitchell & District Arena and Community Centre
  - a) Main Hall Auditorium
    - ▪ added accessible washroom with accessible toilet, mirrors, sink etc.
    - ▪ automatic door
    - ▪ push button lock feature inside washroom
    - ▪ Entranceway - changed the entranceway to allow access without doors
    - ▪ Inside Hall – accessible doorway
  - b) Arena
    - ▪ Accessible doorways into arena
    - ▪ Small meeting room added with lever handles on doors and accessible washrooms added for both sexes
    - ▪ Female washroom off lobby expanded and accessible toilet added

Goals

- o To meet the requirements of the Ontario Building Code by January 1, 2015, and the Design of Public Spaces Standard by January 1, 2016.

- o Create an Accessibility Design Guideline to be used by the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities for County buildings, structures or premises that the County Council or Lower Tier Councils purchase, lease, construct or significantly renovate.
- o Continue to refer to the Ontario Building Code for any new construction or re-development, as well as the Design of Public Spaces Standard to ensure compliance.

Our Commitment

A commitment has been made by the County of Perth and its Member Municipalities to make accessibility in County services, programs, goods and facilities a reality. Progress to date has been and will continue to be a collaborative effort between the Upper and Lower Tiers. As well, the sharing of knowledge and documentation between Municipalities and other Organizations in Ontario has been invaluable, and illustrates the commitment that the people of Ontario have made to the AODA.

There is much work to be done, and we will continue to identify and remove barriers in order to create accessible spaces and services that everyone can use. Our success is dependent upon continued collaboration and feedback from the public. We encourage employees, residents and visitors to Perth County to share their suggestions and comments on how we might make improvements in order to create a more accessible County.

Please contact us through one of the following methods:

County of Perth Website: www.perthcounty.ca

Phone: 519-271-0531 x 141

Mail: Accessibility Coordinator
County of Perth
1 Huron Street
Stratford, ON N5A 5S4

Email: accessibility@perthcounty.ca