



The Corporation of
The City of Cambridge

APPENDIX 'A'
TO REPORT CSD/10-11



**2010
Accessibility Plan**



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The City of Cambridge

2010 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

City of Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee

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BACKGROUND

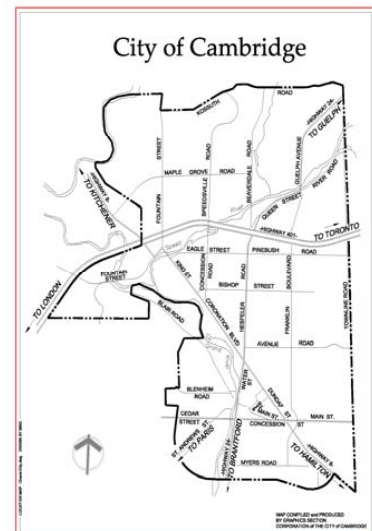
There are two broad pieces of legislation in Ontario that speak to accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) directs that municipalities with more than 10,000 residents appoint Accessibility Advisory Committees as well as create and make public an annual accessibility plan. More recently, the Province passed the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) which mandates the development and release of accessibility standards for the private and public sector. However, until such time as the ODA is repealed, municipalities must continue to meet the requirements of both the ODA and AODA. As a result, the City of Cambridge is pleased to prepare and present the sixth annual Accessibility Plan.

Cambridge is committed to taking a leadership role in achieving and setting an example to the business, institutional and volunteer sectors in terms of access and integration. Staff and volunteers work to identify barriers and gaps in existing by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services.

The City of Cambridge is planning for the future, so all residents will be able to participate fully in the life of the community and access all services and public facilities.

POPULATION AND OVERVIEW OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge is a City with a population of 120,400 residents, located in the Region of Waterloo. The city is made up of three core areas; Hespeler, Preston, and Galt. Each core area boasts a unique history and adds both charm and character to the areas overall image. As part of the Region of Waterloo, Cambridge is in proximity to major North American markets and transportation networks. The Region is known for its diverse ethnic makeup, and its excellent education, health, cultural and recreation facilities, making the city an ideal area for both families and businesses to call home.



OVERVIEW OF DISABILITY

People with disabilities represent a significant and growing part of the population. There are approximately 4.4 million people with disabilities in Canada. This amount represents a significant portion (14.3%) of the population who are active participants in both the public and the private service sector. According to the latest data available, nearly 16% of Ontario residents live with a disability. In Cambridge that represents 19,264 people. Ontario stats also include information showing that 41% of individuals 65 years and older have a disability. As baby boomers age, the proportion of seniors in the population will increase and the number of people facing disabilities in future years will continue to rise. Cambridge is actively working to ensure its services and sites are accessible to all citizens.

NOTABLE SUCCESSES IN ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING TO DATE

- Purchase of adaptive program equipment for Recreation Facilities
- Barrier Identification Program created for outdoor spaces, parks and trails
- Facility Accessibility Audit completed in partnership with Joe Somfay Architects
- Installation of the TextNet TTY Answering Program on the municipal phone system for those who are deaf or have a hearing loss
- Increase in the number of specialized inclusive programs offered in Cambridge - 32% since 2001
- Accessibility upgrades made to both Moffat Creek and North View Heights Trails
- Increased number of staff hours working in Inclusion Services
- Accessible Playground Structure was designed and installed at Churchill Park
- The city adopted the use of a Facility Accessibility Design Standard in 2007 for all new buildings or major renovations
- A formal Site Plan review process was established in 2007 and launched in 2008
- A staff team developed a plan to address compliance with the Customer Service Standard – Ontario Regulation 429/07
- Over 600 city staff were trained in Accessible Customer Service Principals through 2009
- A Community Resource Team of local support service agencies was established to support Accessibility Planning
- The Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee assisted to remove cross border travel restrictions for MobilityPLUS Services between the cities of Cambridge and Kitchener/Waterloo
- A team of staff and volunteers successfully conducted a community needs assessment with over 700 individuals with special needs to identify priority concerns, service gaps and program needs

NEW ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVES FOR 2010

With the Accessible Standards for Information and Communication being presented as a soon to be provincial regulation, staff will be spending the better part of 2010 reviewing and improving the current communication methods used by the municipality. The review will include such things as the website, electronic and print communications, Agenda Management Systems, telecommunications, video and multimedia as well as information, documentation and support at City Hall with respect to accessibility.

In addition to the communication plan, staff will be working to launch the accessible customer service orientation training program and devoting time to the review of city parks, open spaces and trails.

For a chart of the budget estimate associated with the 2010 Accessibility Plan see “Appendix A”.

PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE PLAN

Once the *2010 Accessibility Plan* is approved by Cambridge City Council in early 2010, the plan will be made available to the public through the following means:

1. The document will be placed on the city website.
2. Copies of the plan will be printed and provided from the City’s Community Services Department, or through mail. Alternative Formats will be available upon request.
3. Communication of the Plan will be provided to local media, and an insert placed in the Cambridge Times in February 2010.

MAIN CONTACT

The main contact for inquiries regarding the municipality’s accessibility plan, or issues related to access to services is:

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CONCLUSION

Accessibility legislation has municipalities across the province working to improve access for persons with disabilities. In preparation for the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and its impact on municipalities the City of Cambridge is committed to identifying, addressing, and removing barriers, ensuring access to those living in our community.

Cambridge will continue to develop plans and support annual initiatives, taking a leadership role in achieving and setting an example for local businesses, institutions, and the volunteer sector in terms of access and integration, in accordance with the provincial legislation.

APPENDICES

Appendix A**Budget Estimate Associated with the 2010 Accessibility Plan**

Initiative/Project	Estimates Cost
Accessible Customer Service Program and Orientation Training	8,000
Accessibility Review - Parks and Trails	20,000
Information and Communications Review (this review and plan addresses compliance with the Information and Communication Standard)	30,000
Accessible Building and Equipment Upgrades	25,000
Inclusive Programming – New Initiatives	15,000
Miscellaneous	2,000
Total	\$100,000