

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NAIRN AND HYMAN



September 2004

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Submitted to:
Reeve and Council
Township of Nairn and Hyman

Submitted by:
Robert Deschene
CAO

Purpose

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001(ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

This is the second year of the plan (2004) prepared by the municipality. The report describes the measures the Township has taken in past and the measures the Township will take during the current year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Township, including staff and members of the community at large.

This year the Township committed itself to the continual improvement of access to municipal facilities including the electronic (world wide web) and the actual physical premises. The Nairn Community Centre is now fully wheelchair accessible. We have made improvements to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Aim

This report describes measures that the Township of Nairn and Hyman has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Township.

Objectives

This report:

1. Describes the efforts made by the Township of Nairn and Hyman in identifying and removing any obstacles to people with disabilities.
2. List the facilities, programs and services the Township will review.
3. Describe the measures the Township has taken to remove barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describe how the Township will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Demographics of the Township of Nairn and Hyman

The Township of Nairn and Hyman is located in Northeastern Ontario. The Township is bordered on the north by the Township of Totten, northeast by the City of Greater Sudbury, the northwest by the Township of Baldwin and the south by the Township of Foster.

The Township has a population of 427 with 286 households. We have a Community Centre in Nairn Centre that holds our council meetings and recreational events, including hall rentals for various functions. The Township Office is attached to the Nairn Community Centre. A fire hall adjoins the Nairn Community Centre on the west side. We also have a fire hall in the geographic Township of Hyman.

Council's Commitment to Accessibility Planning

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman is committed to the continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for those with disabilities.

The Council has authorized the CAO to prepare an accessibility plan that will meet these commitments.

Recent Barrier - Removal Initiatives

In February of 2003 the municipality created a web site that is available to anyone with access to the world wide web. This will allow anyone to be able to access the web site and keep up to date on current issues within the Township. Application forms for various items are available on line and can be accessed to individuals from their homes. These include applications for: building permits, dog tags, committee members, information changes on tax and water bills, etc. Many other items are available online. The website address is www.nairncentre.ca.

The Township of Nairn and Hyman has received approved funding for the installation of a unisex wheelchair accessible washroom facility at the Nairn Community Centre. This allows individuals with disabilities to attend any function and utilize washroom facilities without any barriers. This washroom meets the standards and requirements of the Ontario Building Code Act.

The municipality now has wheelchair accessible entrance to the Nairn Community Centre. Individuals with disabilities can now access the Community Centre with the assistance of an automatic door opener. Entrance to the Community Centre will allow individuals to access to the Municipal Office also.

The Township's official plan authorizes the use of garden suites in the

residential areas. These are one-unit detached residential structures that are accessory to an existing residential structure and are designed to be portable. Garden suites are intended for people who are largely capable of living independently but who, by virtue of their age or because of disability require some support to live on their own.

Barrier Identification

Parking spaces for the disabled at the Nairn Community Centre are not properly identified.

Proper seating facilities for clients and customers at the municipal office is insufficient.

Barriers to be Addressed in 2004/2005

The first barrier that we will address is allocation of proper parking spaces for the disabled at the Nairn Community Centre and Municipal Office. A work's project is scheduled in September/October 2004 to remedy this problem. Parking areas have been redesigned and will be reconstructed.

The second barrier that will be addressed is the construction of an extended counter at the municipal office. This allows customers and clients access to a seating area in the municipal office. This project will be constructed and completed in the fall of 2004.

Review and Monitoring of the Process

Council will be monitoring this plan annually to identify any obstacles or barriers under the Ontario with Disabilities Act.

Communication of the Plan

This plan will be made available on the web site and at the municipal office and Nairn Community Centre. We will make every attempt to make it available to those with disabilities for their perusal and review. Copies of the plan will be available in large print.

Questions related to this plan should be directed to:

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