



December 2013

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

**Submitted to:
The Mayor 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 eleventh year of the plan (2013) prepared by the municipality. The report describes the measures the Township has taken in the 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.

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 approximately 409 and 302 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 is located next to 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 allows 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, information changes on tax and water bills, etc. Many other items are available online. The website address is www.nairncentre.ca. Council minutes and agendas are also available on line.

The Township of Nairn and Hyman has 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 has a 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 from 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.

An identified parking space for individuals with disabilities at the Nairn Community Centre is available .

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

The current by-laws, polices, and programs of the Township of Nairn and Hyman have no identified barriers for people with disabilities.

The Nairn Community Centre can be used for voting purposes in any of the Federal, Provincial and Municipal elections. The Community Centre is wheelchair accessible.

In 2007, the municipality has provided for electronic services via the world wide web for the payment of municipal taxes and water bills. Individuals with disabilities can now pay their municipal invoices in the comfort of their own home by going on-line.

In 2010 the Township of Nairn and Hyman adopted By-law number 2010-6 “Being a by-law to establish guidelines on providing goods and services to persons with disabilities”. The municipality is committed to providing individual accommodation to its customers where appropriate by creating its own alternate format of printed materials. Upon request, alternate formats will be provided in a manner in which is agreed upon by the requester and the municipality. Documents can be made available in the following formats: enlarged on a photo copier, reprinted with a larger font or make it available

electronically by disk or email. Another method includes reading a document for the visually impaired.

In 2012, all employees, committee members, members of council and volunteer firefighters were trained as required under the Accessibility for Ontario with Disabilities Act. The resource material used was “the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service” as recommended.

Barriers to be Addressed in 2014

There are no known barriers identified at this time.

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. 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:

Robert Deschene, CAO, Municipal Clerk

Township of Nairn and Hyman

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