

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Date: July 18, 2023

Subject: 1st and 2nd Quarter Activity Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC) is a Select Committee of Council established to provide advice and recommendations to Council on matters relating to citizens with disabilities, seniors and other citizens with access issues that may impede participation in everyday aspects of community living.

The AIAC mandate is as follows:

- a) To inform all citizens of the Committee's purpose and to identify existing social and physical barriers.
- b) To provide advice and information in regard to future planning of municipal services, programs and facilities.
- c) To work with Council to increase public awareness of the issues of accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities, seniors, and all citizens.

1st and 2nd Quarterly Activity Report

Over the last six months, committee activity has primarily focused on assisting the District with public engagement and the drafting of the District's Age-Friendly Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan. In addition, committee members have participated in community events and seminars to solicit feedback from residents on accessibility in Mackenzie as well as to create awareness of the committee and their work.

The following table provides a detailed outline of the activities over the last six months:

Date:	Activity:
January 17, 2023	Initial Meeting of Committee – Roles, Responsibilities
February 23-24, 2023	Focus Group Meetings (3) with Age Friendly Consultant – day evening and wheelchair tour of select businesses
February 25, 2023	Winter Quest Business Market
March 2, 2023	WorkBC Diverse Abilities Market
March 30, 2023	Entrepreneur for Disabilities Information Session
April 11, 2023	Review Consultants Draft Report and provide feedback
April 21, 2023	Northern Health Fall Prevention Information Session
April 26, 2023	New Horizon Stakeholder Meeting
May 5-6, 2023	Chamber of Commerce Trade Expo
June 2, 2023	Rick Hansen Accessibility Week – The Power of Inclusive Minds
May 20 – June 2, 2023	Accessibility Week Display Mackenzie Library
May 31, 2023	Red Shirt Day
June 1, 2023	Intergenerational Day – Taco in a bag lunch at both schools
June 28, 2023	Development Permit Area Meeting with District
June 28, 2023	New Horizon Stakeholder Meeting
Ongoing Activities	
Design and develop informational brochures – used to create awareness within the community	
We are providing feedback to the district related to issues/concerns and some recommendations related to accessibility and inclusion for all community members	
We work closely with existing organizations that support an age friendly community including the New Horizon Project, Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Society and Mackenzie Community Services	
Business and Professional Service Visits – introduction and sharing information, creating awareness, and offering site visits by committee member that uses a wheelchair to demonstrate accessibility	

Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the committee meetings held on January 17, 2023, February 7, 2023, March 15, 2023, April 11, 2023, April 14, 2023, and April 27, 2023, have been attached for Council's consideration.


Formal standing invitations to each of the groups listed in the AIAC Terms of Reference have been sent. Several new members joined the Quarterly Meeting held in July, with hope for further participants at the next meeting in September. Minutes of the July and September meetings will be included in the next quarterly report.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Respectfully Submitted,


Elizabeth Blackburn
Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee Chair


Approved for Submission to Council