

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee

**Date:** January 8, 2024

**Subject:** 3rd and 4th Quarter Activity Report

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council receives this report for information.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Accessibility 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.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Activity Reports**

Since our last report, the committee has continued to focus on reviewing the District's Age-Friendly Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan. During this process, the committee has reviewed recommendations as identified by Kate Milne to determine where we could and are able to support others on our road to Access and Inclusion.

We, individually and as a committee, continue to engage with community members through public engagement opportunities and through community events and seminars to solicit feedback from residents on accessibility in Mackenzie as well as to create awareness of the

committee and our work. The following table provides a detailed outline of the activities over the last six months:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Activity:</b>
4-Jul	Quarterly meeting – All members in attendance.
8-Jul	Disability Alliance BC (info/resource site) - <i>Liz</i> shared with the committee.
16-Jul	Registered for webinars with Accessibility Association - Understanding the history of web accessibility; why accessible content is everyone's responsibility; A comprehensive approach to accessibility and inclusive design; designing and sustaining an effective digital accessibility program - <i>Kimberly and Liz</i> .
18-Jul	New Horizon "Bridging the Gap" Focus Group with consultant Shoba from CNC -part of research project related to accessibility and inclusion - <i>Kimberly and Liz</i> attended hosted by CNC representative Raye.
20-Jul	Evaluation discussion ( <i>Emily and Liz</i> ) Tabled for follow-up in the new year – what is working and if there are areas that are not working how can we make change?
24-Jul	Council Meeting - Autumn Lodge new location at the Rec Centre. A&I Quarter 1 & 2 report - <i>Liz</i> attended.
25-Jul	<i>Kimberly</i> met with the Northern Health Occupational Therapist and during their appointment she spoke about the A&I Committee informing him of our role, responsibilities, and the activities that we have completed to date.
15-Aug	Preparation meeting for the Chamber of Commerce Presentation - <i>all members</i> in attendance.
23-Aug	Accessible venue inspection based on Odlan Checklist – "Walk and Roll" Inspection at the Royal Canadian Legion - <i>Liz and Kimberly met with Lawrence Napier</i> .
28-Aug	New Horizon Stakeholder Meeting - New Horizon Bridging the Gap, Information sharing and updates about activities in the community – <i>Cassandra &amp; Liz attended</i> .
12-Sep	Active Transportation Meeting - District Planning - <i>Kimberly, Liz, Dave attended</i> .
21-Sep	Chamber of Commerce Presentation - <i>all committee members participated</i> .
22-Sep	Attended a Not-for-Profit group meeting with Andy Ackerman – info meeting to learn more about a group in Fort St. John that collaborate on ideas, funding, sharing information and supporting each other - <i>Liz, Cassandra</i> attended.
27-Sep	Accessible venue inspection based on Odlan Checklist – "Walk and Roll Inspection" Mackenzie Community Service - <i>Kimberly, Cassandra</i> .
28-Sep	Seniors Week Connection Fair " <u>Live it for a Minute</u> " - interactive table display that showcased the major barriers – Cognitive Function, Auditory Impairment, Speech Disorder, Visual Impairment and Motor Impairment. <i>Liz and Kimberly</i> . ( <i>Kimberly</i> demonstrated wheelchair and transition ramp – how just a 2" transition can negate access). (Note <i>Cassandra, Raye, and Alice</i> were representing their own organizations but available to talk A&I).
22-Sep	Accessibility Trail - part 1 to lookout - <i>Kimberly and Liz</i> invited by Aaron Snively

6-Oct	Submit info for the Tourism Guide - requested by Rachelle for all committee members ( <i>Alice &amp; Liz, Kimberly provided feedback</i> ).
13-Oct	Accessibility Trail - part 2 to lookout - <i>Kimberly</i> invited by Aaron Snively.
15-Oct	All <i>Committee members</i> – general discussion regarding agenda items.
15-Oct	Meeting with Jesse Wright - Funding for Youth Entrepreneur request to work with A&I - <i>all committee members</i> .
16-Oct	Rural Health Meeting - Mackenzie Collaborative Table - <i>Liz, Kimberly, Cassandra</i> .
17-Oct	Quarterly meeting
18-Oct	Letter of support for Foundry - <b>Liz</b> submitted on behalf of committee.
24-Oct	Accessible venue inspection based on Odium Checklist - Recreation Centre - Also joining us will be Occupational Therapist Elliot Flockhart - <i>Raye, Kimberly, Liz</i> - Elliot Flockhart (NHA Occupational Therapist joined us and has requested to have his "UNBC practical students" visit and participate in a "Walk and Roll Inspection" in the spring.
30-Oct	Meeting with Joan, Diane, and Emily - Open discussion status of committee, community interaction – <i>Liz</i> .
3-Nov	Dementia Workshop - <i>Kimberly, Cassandra, Liz, (Raye)</i> .
2-Nov	Volunteer Hub - Initial meeting with host Collin – <i>Liz, Raye</i> .
9-Nov	Volunteer Hub = follow-up meeting to discuss with other users i.e., Arts, MCS, Autumn Lodge - <i>Raye, Liz, Cassandra &amp; Raye</i> .
13-Nov	Meeting with community members to discuss A&I and trails - <i>Kimberly and Liz</i> . Email discussion with another community member as per above reasons – <i>Liz</i> .
16-Nov	AGM for Mackenzie Autumn Lodge to announce new funding - new location tour – <i>Liz</i> .
24-Nov	Plaid Friday - visit various vendor sites to introduce the committee - make connections - Murphy's Monster access walk through not formal, Daniel Smith guest at an upcoming meeting – <i>Liz (discussed layout impedes access)</i> .
30-Nov	Committee meeting update and discuss upcoming presentation to council in January - <i>Cassandra, Kimberly, David, Liz</i> .
5-Dec	Phone meeting with Emily regarding the Action Plan next steps – <i>Liz</i> .
5 & 8 Dec	Morfee School Christmas Shopping - representing A&I – <i>Kimberly/Raye</i> - discussion with staff, parents, and principal - will be working with the school in the new year - Walk & Roll visit, Empathy Exercises as per Rick Hansen Foundation.
8-Dec	Committee meeting with Emily regarding the Action Plan motion sending the report to council – <i>Liz, Dave, and Kimberly</i> (Alice approved by email /Cassandra regrets due to an emergency).

## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the committee meetings held on July 4, 2023, and October 17, 2023, and December 8, 2023 have been attached for Council's consideration. Our next meeting is in January 2024 with the date yet to be determined.

Formal standing invitations to each of the groups listed in the AIAC Terms of Reference have been sent. It is hoped to have several new members join the next Quarterly Meeting to be held in January 2024 and then going forward.

## **COUNCIL PRIORITY:**

### **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

**Reviewed By:** Corporate Services

**Approved By:** Chief Administrative Officer