

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Date: April 12, 2024

Subject: 2024 – 1st 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 Quarterly Activity Report

Over the last few months, the committee members have been actively involved in working with a variety of groups and attending workshops when the opportunities present themselves. All committee members take every opportunity in our daily lives whether it be at work or when participating in an activity or attending an event the Accessibility and Inclusion Committee members are advocating for all persons faced with barriers that impede the quality of their life. We look forward to any opportunity that allows us to speak about our role in the community and we listen to our audience as to any concerns or recommendations that they may share. We continue to offer our "Walk and Roll" courtesy site inspections, offer on-on-one conversations,

visits to workplaces, group discussions with small groups or staff, and provide recommendations to businesses for funding, recommend changes to the existing environment, and any other resources that seem pertinent to the situation. We are always on the lookout for barriers that may impede access and inclusion for all. We are always watching and listening for ways that our committee can be of assistance in making Mackenzie an Accessible and Inclusive Community.

Since introducing the Kate Milne Action Plan to Council in January we are trying to find the recommended “linkages” in the report that we can support and action quickly and efficiently. We are forming relationships with service groups and organizations that serve have a similar vision and/or cause i.e. Mackenzie Seniors, Better at Home, Mackenzie Community Arts, Mackenzie Community Service, and the Age Well at home projects, designed for seniors and other vulnerable populations.

On January 5 the committee (not including district representatives) met to review the council presentation booked for January 8 and during this meeting there was discussion about the quarterly meetings being long and cumbersome with long agendas. It was decided to propose to the district that we meet every other month on the third Wednesday at 3:00 pm. At the first meeting we agreed to try this format and try to keep our meetings to one hour in length. Additionally, we were made aware that Councillor Brumovsky would be the new alternate council liaison in addition to Councillor McMeeken. We agreed to and are still trying to bring our meetings to a one-hour format and then move to a lunch hour timeframe. The one-hour time lunch time frame may also allow for other community groups to attend our meetings as well.

A complete list of activities for this quarter is attached to this document.

Committee Meeting Minutes

On January 8, 2024 the Committee presented a PowerPoint show to Council and a copy is available for additional viewing by contacting the appropriate office staff member. The minutes from the committee meetings held **on January 17, 2024, and March 20, 2024 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. It is hoped to have several new members join the next Quarterly Meeting to be held in May and then going forward.

	Activity:
2024	
January 3	Meet District staff review Council presentation
January 4	New Horizon Volunteer Database
January 5	Committee Final Review of Council Presentation
January 8	Council Presentation
January 17	Committee Quarterly Meeting
January 22	Northern Health Rural Health Meeting
January 24	New Horizon Stakeholder Meeting
February 7	Inquiry about the Façade Grant – referred to District for more info – copy picked up for committee reference
February 8	BC Hydro Community Meeting – lake level impacts on community
February 10	U18 Hockey Tournament – Identified access barriers and risks (Mayor Atkinson & Chair Blackburn) info shared with Director of Recreation Services – relate to handrails and stairs
Feb12	Shared resources with Morfee and Mackenzie Secondary – Rick Hansen Inclusion Activities for teachers – email & F2F
February 12	Assist with the development of a Mackenzie Community Service Accessibility Plan
February 12	Community Awareness Meeting
February 13	Further support for MCS Accessibility Plan
February 13	Resignation of Alice Pritchett from the committee
February 15	Better at Home Meeting – Transportation
February 19	Northern Health Rural Health Meeting
February 22	Telephone meeting with owner of Evergreen Taxi
February 26	Rick Hansen Foundation – Inclusion in Sports webinar
March 3	Mackenzie Figure Skating Finale – access barrier identified & will submit report
March 12	Long Term Care Community Meeting
March 14	Social Isolation webinar
March 19	How do you measure belonging - webinar
March 19	Long Term Care meeting – formation of a board and approval to form a society
March 20	New Horizon Stakeholder Meeting – volunteer hub
March 20	Access and Inclusion Committee Meeting
March 25	Northern Health Rural Health Meeting
March 26	Arts Council request for letter of support from Accessibility Committee Further discussion with district to occur on April 3
March 27	Long Term Care Society approved “Williston Lake Elder Society”
March 25 – April	Committee members registered/completed Rick Hansen online course
April 12 Quarterly Report Due	
Volunteer Appreciation Week – April 14 – 20	



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, Committee Chair

Reviewed by: Councillor McMeeken, Committee Liaison; Corporate and Financial Services

Approved by: Chief Administrative Officer