

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Date: April 14, 2026

Subject: 1st Quarter Activity Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive 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 regarding future planning of municipal services, programs, and facilities.
- c) To work with the Council to increase public awareness of the issues of accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities, seniors, and all citizens.

Quarterly Activity Report

As the chair of this committee, I would like to acknowledge and thank Council for finding new members for the Access and Inclusion Committee. The new members have attended a meeting of the committee, and they are enthusiastic about learning more about what the committee has done and what the plans include. At the first meeting (February 2026) of this new committee, we took the opportunity to introduce ourselves and learn more about individual experiences as the experience related to the mandate of the committee (noted above). The new dynamics of the members will be a learning experience for all, expectations, community and personal commitments and of course new ideas! In addition, we had the privilege of having Councillor Jesse Wright attending on behalf of Councillor Raye McMeeken.

Our next order of business as a group will be to review the Kate Milne report and report the status of each item that was noted as being part of the Accessibility committee's task to address or work with community partners to address and attempt to mediate a fix. Once this document has been reviewed and discussed we will establish a plan to address how we fit into the "fix". During our review time the new committee members will have the opportunity to ask questions related to how we worked together with businesses to find a solution. We will introduce our "walk and roll" site visits and share the resources that we use to define our work plans and recommendations to the various stakeholder businesses.

Between our last meeting and today I, as Chair, have participated in several meetings in the community including 60th Celebrations (member of this committee). Committee member Joy Davy and I completed a Walk and Roll at Hub International. At that time the manager was in discussions regarding some upcoming renovations, and we offered our support while she was in the planning stages and would revisit the site upon completion. We also suggested that she apply to the Façade Improvement funding for automatic doors. When available I attended the community coalition meetings, the Williston Lake Elders meetings, and supported various groups as they addressed accessibility for upcoming events.

Unfortunately, due to a personal accident my actions on behalf of and including the committee members have been interrupted for over a month. However, I have been in contact with committee members regarding the Spring Expo. This will be the first time attending for the new members, but it will be an opportunity to meet community members and share our experience. This year we will focus on Universal Design and barriers. Hope to see you there!

Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the committee meetings held on December 17, 2025 and February 18, 2026 , have been attached for Council's consideration.

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: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer