



The Township of Beckwith

2019-2024 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

11/17/2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The province of Ontario supports the rights of persons with disabilities of all ages to enjoy equal opportunity and to participate fully in the life of the province.

Currently, people with disabilities experience barriers daily that prevent them from joining in the mainstream of Ontario society. The percentage of the population with disabilities is expected to increase in the years to come.

Beckwith Township, along with the Government of Ontario is committed to working with society to build on what has already been achieved. People with disabilities have a right to equal treatment, without discrimination, in accordance with the Human Rights Code, addressed in several Ontario Statutes and regulations.

Ontario recognizes that accessibility is a shared responsibility and passed the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 on December 14th, 2001, requiring provincial and municipal governments to review their policies, services and programs by developing annual accessibility plans.

In 2005 the Province of Ontario expanded on the previous act of 2001. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 now included the private sector as well as provincial and municipal governments. The provincial goal is to achieve accessibility for the people of Ontario with disabilities by the year 2025. The new act included five specific areas, all to be completed within their own specific time periods.

- Customer service
- Information and communications
- Employment
- Transportation
- Built environment

Beckwith Township is committed to treating people with the respect deserved; ensuring people are able to maintain independence as well as self-respect. We are committed to removing barriers and meeting accessibility requirements set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, in a timely manner. We support equal opportunity rights and integration, equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

INTRODUCTION

This is the 2019 accessibility plan for the Township of Beckwith. Beckwith is located on the most easterly side of Lanark County, bounded by the Townships of Montague and Drummond / North Elmsley as well as the Town of Carleton Place and the Town of Mississippi Mills. The Township population is currently 7,600 permanent residents. The Township boasts 243.09 square kilometers, including Mississippi Lake and River, the

Jock River, fertile farmland, and wide open spaces, forests, well-planned subdivisions, protected wetlands and historical hamlets.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Township of Beckwith is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner and shall do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting the accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopted accessible customer service standard policy and procedures (By-Law NO. 2009-59)• developed and implemented a customer feedback form• Developed and implemented a record of customer feedback• Developed and implemented a record of accessible customer service training• Implemented a customer service training plan• Developed and implemented scheduled and unexpected service disruption notice
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build the Beckwith Recreation Complex, including all accessible features• Implemented accessible parking at the recreation complex• Implemented accessible information for the municipality website
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed a municipal Facebook page• Adopted the Lanark County Emergency Preparedness Booklet to our website in an accessible format
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installed accessible automatic doors at the recreation complex
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of new accessibility policy and procedure
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added additional accessible parking at the municipal office• Added additional accessible parking at the Brunton Community Hall
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added additional accessible parking at the recreation complex• Added additional accessible parking at Beckwith Park• Updated website with accessible font features
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Built an accessible park at the recreation complex, included accessible swings• Built an accessible splash pad at the recreation complex

BARRIER IDENTIFICATION

The Township has implemented an Accessibility Assessment Form to ensure that we are remaining current with the latest accessibility practices. The form is maintained through staff inspection of facilities, parks, programs, staff and volunteer training. The municipality also has a Customer Feedback Form readily available on the municipal website and in the municipal office. The feedback form is available in accessible formats and is dealt with in a timely manner.

Any barriers identified will be addressed directly by the Clerk Administrator and management, a plan will be developed and it will be resolved in a timely manner.

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2019 – 2023 Action	Responsibility	Costs	Target Date
Multi Year Accessibility Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop plan Council adopts plan Communicate plan 	Clerk and Council	Staff time	April 1 st , 2020
Accessibility Policy and Procedure Manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add newly adopted regulations to policy as it pertains to accessibility Update staff training procedure to accommodate new Accessibility Act Policies 	Clerk and Council	Staff Time	April 1 st , 2020
Barrier Identification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Accessibility Assessment Form 	Clerk and Council	Staff Time	May 1 st , 2020
Barrier Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Barrier Removal Plan 	Clerk and Council	Staff Time	June 1 st , 2020
Procurement or Acquiring Goods, Services or Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update procurement policy and procedures to accommodate Accessibility Act Council adopts updated policy 	Clerk, Council and Treasurer	Staff Time	July 1 st , 2020
Accessibility Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beckwith Recreation Complex Develop a plan to remove any and all barriers 	Recreation Facility Foreman and Clerk	Staff Time	August 1 st , 2020

Accessibility Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunton Community Hall • Develop a plan to remove any and all barriers 	Chief Building Officer and Clerk	Staff Time	August 1 st , 2020
Annual Accessibility Report to Province	Clerk	Staff Time	December 31 st , 2020
Status Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete annual status report • Communicate report 	Clerk	Staff Time	December 31 st , 2020
Accessibility Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beckwith Recreation Complex Parking • Develop a plan to remove any and all barriers 	Public Works and Clerk	Staff Time	March 1 st , 2021
Accessibility Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beckwith Park coverall building • Develop a plan to remove any and all barriers 	Public Works and Clerk	Staff Time	May 1 st , 2021
Status Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete annual status report • Communicate report 	Clerk	Staff Time	December 31 st , 2021
Accessibility Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Office • Develop a plan to remove any and all barriers 	Chief Building Officer and Clerk	Staff Time	May 1 st , 2022
Annual Accessibility Report to Province	Clerk	Staff Time	December 31 st , 2022
Status Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete annual status report • Communicate report 	Clerk	Staff Time	December 31 st , 2022
Status Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete annual status report • Communicate report 	Clerk	Staff Time	December 31 st , 2023

REVIEWING AND MONITORING

Beckwith Township Council and Staff are committed to the Accessibility Plan. Following each calendar year, a status report will be available for review. The status report will allow the Township to reflect on the past years efforts and update the Accessibility Plan accordingly. Updating the plan annually will allow council, staff and the public to better understand some of the barriers to accessibility as well as the plans in place to remove barriers, and prevent them in the future. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 will be our guild line to ensure proper action is taken.

COMMUNICATION

The Beckwith Township Accessibility Plan will be made available to the public through the municipal website; it will also be available at the Township office. Status reports and assessments will also be made available through the township website as well as at the municipal office. The website is available in accessible formats.

SUMMARY

Beckwith Township Council is committed to treating people with the respect deserved; ensuring people are able to maintain independence as well as self-respect. We are committed to removing barriers and meeting accessibility requirements set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, in a timely manner. We support equal opportunity rights and integration, equal protection and equal benefit of the law. Council supports accessibility wherever possible to ensure those with disabilities are able to experience all that Beckwith has to offer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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