



# **ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

**November 2015**

Submitted to:  
Mayor and Council  
Township of The North Shore

Submitted by:  
Clerk Treasurer  
Brenda Green

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each municipality prepare a multi-year accessibility plan, and update them at least once every five years and post them on their websites.

The report describes the measures the Township of The North Shore has taken in the past and the measures the Township of The North Shore will take during the coming years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Township of The North Shore, including staff and members of the community at large.

## **Aim**

This report describes measures that the Township has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Township.

## **Objectives**

1. Describes the efforts made by the Township of The North Shore in identifying and removing any obstacles to people with disabilities.
2. List the facilities, programs and services the Township of The North Shore will review.
3. Describes the measures the Township of The North Shore has taken to remove barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describes how the Township of The North Shore will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

## **Description of the Township of The North Shore**

The Township of The North Shore is located in Northern Ontario, approximately midway between the cities of Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie in the District of Algoma, on the north shore of Lake Huron. The geographic Townships of Lewis, Spragge, Long and part of Striker, combine to form the Township of The North Shore. The Township boundaries extend into the North Channel of Lake Huron, including the North Channel Islands. The Township has a population of approximately 509 and 370 households.

The Municipal Office building is located in the village of Algoma Mills, where council meetings are held in council chambers. The council chambers is also available for various presentations, including rental for various functions. Fire Station #1 is attached to the Municipal Office building. Fire Station #2 is located in the village of Serpent River.

There is an outdoor recreation area in the village of Spragge which has an outdoor rink and tennis court. In the village of Algoma Mills, there is a public beach with a boat launch and gazebo. Also, in Algoma Mills there is the Causeway Park which has a boat launch and 2 pavilions.

## **Council's Commitment to Accessibility Planning**

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore is committed to the continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for those with disabilities.

The Council has authorized the Clerk to prepare an accessibility plan that will meet these commitments.

## **Recent Barrier Removal Initiatives**

All the public washroom facilities in the Township are wheelchair accessible.

In 2005, the Township of The North Shore provided electronic services via the world wide web for the payment of municipal taxes and water bills. Individuals with a disability could now pay their municipal invoices from their own home by going on-line.

In 2010, the back door of the Municipal Building was changed to wheelchair accessible. A parking spot for individuals with disabilities has been identified also. Access to the Municipal Office building can now be accessible to individuals with disabilities with the assistance of an automatic door opener. The gentlemen's and ladies washrooms were renovated to be wheelchair accessible also.

In 2011, the Township created the Best Practices and Procedures Policy for Accessible Customer Service. This policy was updated April 2, 2014. The municipality is committed to providing individual accommodation to its customers where appropriate by creating its own alternate format of printed materials. Upon request, alternate formats will be provided in a manner agreed upon by the requester and the municipality.

In 2013, a new dock was put in at Lauzon Beach and a ramp was installed to it.

In 2014, the Township built new picnic tables for our parks and had wheel chair accessible tables built at the same time.

In 2015, the municipality built a new set of steps with an attached ramp at the front entrance of the Municipal Building. The interior and exterior doors were also changed to handi-cap accessibility doors.

In 2009, all current staff at the time were trained as required under the Accessibility for Ontario with Disabilities Act. Training continues with new staff as employed by the Township of The North Shore.

## **Barriers to be Addressed in 2016**

- 1) Lower counter access for visitors.
- 2) Change accessibility door set up at rear of building. (door handle hard to lock in place)  
Employment Standard
- 3) Accessible employment practices.

Information and Communications

- 4) Accessible formats and communication supports.

Design of Public Spaces

- 5) Beach access routes (paved area with hand rail for accessibility).
- 6) Pavillions need a ramp for accessibility.
- 7) Docks need a ramp for accessibility.
- 8) Tennis courts-accessible?
- 9) Spragge Rink-accessible?
- 10) Accessible parking spot at each recreational area.

Maintenance Planning

- 11) Procedures for preventative and emergency maintenance of the accessibility parts of its public spaces.
- 12) Procedures for handling temporary disruptions when an accessible part of its public spaces is not useable.

**Barriers to be Addressed by 2021**

Information and Communications

- 1) All internet websites and web content must conform with WCAG 2.0 Level AA (excluding live captioning and pre-recorded audio descriptions)

**Review and Monitoring of the Process**

The Township of The North Shore Council will be reviewing this plan annually to identify any obstacles or barriers under the Ontario with Disabilities Act.

**Communication of the Plan**

The Township of The North Shore's Accessibility Plan will be made available on the web site and at the municipal office. Every effort will be made to make the plan available to those with disabilities for their perusal and review. Alternative formats of this plan are available upon request.

Questions related to this plan should be directed to:

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