



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

June 2021 – June 2026

Submitted to:
Mayor and Council
Township of The North Shore

Submitted by:
Clerk
Angel Pilon

Goal

The Accessibility Plan describes how the Township of The North Shore can identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities with respect to the use of municipal services, facilities, and workplaces.

Commitment and Objectives

The Township of The North Shore is committed to the continued improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services and the provision of services to all members of the community with disabilities.

The Township of The North Shore strives for compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) by implementing standards pertaining to: accessible customer service; information and communication; employment and the built environment.

The objectives of the Township of The North Shore accessibility planning process are outlined below:

- Being committed to providing barrier free access to citizens and visitors;
- Identify, remove (wherever possible) and prevent all types of barriers to access for people with disabilities;
- Foster an operating environment to prevent the formation of future barriers;
- Undertake appropriate building retrofits to improve accessibility for a wide spectrum of users;
- Meet the requirements as outlined in AODA; and,
- Seek funding opportunities to support these goals.

Legislative Summary

The purpose of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) is to benefit all Ontarians by recognizing the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario by:

- Developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises on or before January 1, 2025; and

The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations of AODA requires municipalities to:

- Establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under the Regulation;
- Post the accessibility plan on their website, and provide the plan in an accessible format upon request; and
- Review and update the accessibility plan at least once every five years.

About 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 497 and 367 households (2016 Census).

Municipal facilities include 1 Municipal Office, 5 boat launch facilities, 1 public beach, 2 playgrounds, one outdoor recreation area/outdoor rink in the village of Spragge and, 1 tennis court.

Policing Services are provided by the East Algoma OPP Detachment located in the Town of Blind River.

Identification of Municipal Barriers

The following barriers and initiatives have been undertaken to resolve these barriers:

Barrier Type	Location	Particulars Undertaken
Access to Municipal Office	Algoma Mills	Ramp at main municipal door; installation of automatic door openers; customer service counter at standard accessible height
Website	Online	Upgraded website and information to provide accessible web content and to meet AODA standards

Training is provided on an ongoing basis and will be provided to all new employees and members of Council through interactive workbooks or available training initiatives.

Identification of Barriers

The Township of The North Shore determines which barriers will be addressed in current and future years depending on budget constraints, available resources and feasibility. Actions and priorities are determined based on input from municipal staff, council, and members of the public. All future actions and priorities will be considered during annual budget discussions.

The Township of The North Shore at this time has no identified outstanding barriers, as outlined below:

Barrier Type	Location	Particulars
Accessible Poly John	All outdoor Washrooms	Completed
Braille Signs	Municipal Office building washroom entrances	Completed
Accessible Poly John	Landfill Site	Completed

The Township of The North Shore staff review actions to identify and prioritize barriers identified and these are considered during budget discussions. The Accessibility Plan will be presented to the Township of The North Shore Council on an annual basis.

This plan will be reviewed not less than once every five years, allowing Council, staff and the public to monitor the barriers identified and the direction to which the Municipality is moving to remove all barriers under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Addressing Barriers

a) The Township of The North Shore will utilize the Government of Ontario barrier-free design guidelines that promote accessibility for people with disabilities to buildings that the Township may purchase, lease, builds or significantly renovates. The barrier free design guidelines

used will ensure the level of accessibility of Township buildings meets the level of accessibility required by the Building Code Act.

b) Council will accommodate the employment-related accessibility needs of people with disabilities who apply for jobs with the municipal government, as required by the Human Rights Code.

c) The Township of The North Shore will accommodate the accessibility needs of its employees as required by the Human Rights Code.

d) The Township of The North Shore will make sure that its staff have access to information necessary to meet the government's duties to employees with disabilities.

e) The Township will examine municipal services for barriers.

Communicating the Plan

Upon approval, the Accessibility Plan will be posted on the Municipality's website at www.townshipofthenorthshore.ca and copies will be made available at the Township Office. A public notice advising the general public that the plan is available for their perusal and review will be placed on the Municipal bulletin boards and in the monthly municipal publication.

Consultation

Municipal Staff are committed to a review of barriers that restrict the quality of life of persons with disability and communication of the findings to Council on an annual basis through the annual submission of the Accessibility Plan.

Council and Staff have compiled the Plan utilizing their personal experiences and the experiences and feedback shared with them from residents of the Township of The North Shore.

The Municipality invites you to submit your comments on the Plan as these will help the Municipality in making our community, local government and services more accessible.

How to Contact Us

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By Email: municipalclerk@townshipofthenorthshore.ca

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