

Town of Kirkland Lake 2022 Annual Accessibility Status Report

Town's Commitment to Accessibility

The Town of Kirkland Lake is committed to developing an accessible community for all residents, businesses and visitors. As required by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and the Integrated Accessibility Standards, a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan was developed to outline strategies and actions to identify, prevent and remove barriers. To complement the Plan, an Annual Status Report has been prepared to report the progress of measures taken to implement the strategies identified within the Plan.

Works Completed – Built Environment

- Paving of walking trail at multi-functional park to meet accessibility standards.
- Enhanced lighting added to overflow parking lot at Community Complex.
- Accessibility enhancements were included in plans for Library Upgrade; for example, barrier free doors, service desk to be height adjustable for staff and patrons, height adjustable tables for patrons, low height accessible shelving.
- Installation of an accessible storage container in the Public Works parking lot to facilitate safe and easy access for the public and staff to waste and recycling containers for public distribution.
- Installation of a ramp access from the Public Works parking lot to the cement walkway bordering the building to provide accessible access to the building's entry points, specifically the downstairs entrance.
- Installation of an accessible door at the downstairs entry point to the Public Works building.
- Accessible button upgrades to the Teck Pioneer Residence Terrace.
- Ongoing installation of tactile plates at pedestrian crosswalks along Government Road.
- Installation of pedestrian crosswalk on Queen Street at Woods Street.
- Audited, inspected and addressed barriers at all advanced and Election Day polling stations, including long term care homes and retirement residences.

Works Completed - Communication

- Continued efforts on disseminating standard advertising in digital and paper format related to Town Council Meetings and Town events.
- Continued standardization of Council & Committees Records (agendas, minutes, and resolutions) in physical, electronic, and virtual forms.
- Continued collaboration with the Town's Communication Coordinator to update and develop accessible forms and documents for internal use and external publication.
- Designed an Election Landing Page that allowed for personal assistive technologies and adjustment of colour and font. Information was clear and offered simple language and was placed in distinct sections to promote ease of use, accessibility, and transparency.
- Established a complaints/feedback process throughout the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections.

Works Completed - Attitudinal

- Continue to conduct Accessibility training for new employees, including students, through the Town's orientation program.
- Conducted Accessibility training for all staff and public members appointed as members of the 2022 Election Team.
- Certain Town staff received Mental Health First Aid training and became certified to provide immediate support and guidance in a safe environment, have open and respectful conversations about mental health related issues and provide information regarding local professional supports.

Works Completed - Technological

- Deployment of CloudPermit, an online building permit software, to improve accessible access to this key municipal service.
- Continued to monitor the municipal website and supporting to conform to the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, level AA.
- Offered the use of Automark ballot marking technology (touch screen, braille ballot and audio-tactile keypad) during the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections offering all electors the opportunity to vote independently barrier-free.

Works Completed - Systemic

- Continued the Community Improvement Plan (Building Renovation and Improvement Grant) which provides financial support for building owners and business operators to take advantage of building and façade upgrades including accessibility improvements.
- Continual discussions and planning with the Town and community partners regarding accessibility.

Works Completed – Standard Operations

- Improvements to timing and routes for winter sidewalk maintenance.
As per standard operational practices, the following is conducted on a regular basis either through legislative or municipal policy requirements:
 - Repair, maintenance, and removal of barriers on municipal trails, sidewalks and public spaces.
 - Fire Code inspections of private, public, and municipal facilities.
 - Building Code inspections of new or renovated facilities.
 - Health and safety inspections of all municipal facilities.
 - Emergency management measures to promote the safety of the community within times of emergency.

Public Review

Members of the public are encouraged to make comments on the Annual Status Report and accessibility matters in general.

Comments can be received in person (at the office, over the telephone etc.) or writing (email, letter, fax.). Please contact the Municipal Office (Town Hall)

- in person/by mail to: Town of Kirkland Lake, 3 Kirkland Street West, Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3P4, Attention: Municipal Clerk
- via telephone: 705-567-9361 x. 238
- via fax: 705-567-3535, or
- email: clerk@tkl.ca

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