



## **2020 – 2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan**

The Town of Prescott's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is designed to support the principles and requirements outlined in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* and Ontario Regulation 191/11 – Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR).

This plan will serve as a road map to help the Town meet the legislative requirements and remove barriers to accessibility.

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Municipality:**

The Corporation of the Town of Prescott

### **Address:**

360 Dibble Street West  
PO Box 160  
Prescott, ON  
K0E 1T0

### **Website:**

[www.prescott.ca](http://www.prescott.ca)

### **Key Contacts:**

Director of Administration/Clerk

Phone: 613-925-2812, ext. 6225

Email: [admin@prescott.ca](mailto:admin@prescott.ca) to request an alternative format that meets your needs.

### **The Town of Prescott:**

The Town of Prescott is a separated Town with a population of approximately 4,200. The Town consists of mainly a residential, commercial, and industrial mix. The Town's corporate structure is comprised of a number of departments led by the Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer and they include:

- Operations (including Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Water & Wastewater)
- Clerk's Office;
- Finance;
- Building, By-Law, and Planning;
- Economic Development
- Emergency Services consists of a Fire Department and local OPP Detachment

Ambulance services are provided through the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

|      |  |
|------|--|
| AODA | <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act</i> |
| HR   | Human Resources  |
| HS   | Health & Safety  |
| IASR | Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation            |
| ODA  | <i>Ontarians with Disabilities Act</i>                   |
| OHRC | Ontario Human Rights Code                                |
| PDF  | Portable Document Format                                 |
| RFP  | Request for Proposal                                     |
| WCAG | Worldwide Web Consortium Accessibility Guidelines        |

## **INTRODUCTION**

What is accessibility? It simply means giving people of all abilities opportunities to participate fully in everyday life.

In December, 2001, the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (ODA) was passed by the province of Ontario to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities. Under the legislation, all municipalities are required to prepare accessibility plans addressing the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers to people with disabilities.

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (also referred to as the AODA), was passed in 2005 to recognize the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario and provides for the development, implementation, and enforcement of mandatory standards for accessibility in all areas of daily life.

Ontario's first accessibility standard under the AODA, the Accessible Customer Service Standard, became law on January 1, 2008, and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), which covers Employment, Information and Communication, and Transportation was released in June, 2011. These standards set out mandatory legal requirements for organizations, businesses, and municipalities. An amendment to the IASR was released by the Province in December of 2012 to include the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces.

One of the requirements of the IASR is to develop, implement, and maintain a multi-year accessibility plan to outline strategies to prevent and remove barriers and meet the requirements of the IASR.

## **POLICY STATEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT**

The Corporation of the Town of Prescott ("the Town") is committed to complying with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) and all of the standards under it in order to create a barrier-free Ontario. The Town is committed and guided by the four core principles of dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity and supports the full inclusion of persons as set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the AODA.

The Town strives to make the goods and services it provides accessible to all.

## **ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS & TOWN OF PRESCOTT ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Customer Service Standard**

- Accessible Customer Service Policy (updated in April 2016)
- Accessible Customer Service training delivered to all members of staff
- Development of a complaints and comments form and a process to encourage feedback on all concerns including accessibility

### **Information and Communication**

- Implementation of an e-agenda software system, eScribe, which produces fully accessibility-compliant content including agendas and minutes
- Development and launch of a new Town website through eSolutions Group which meets the requirements under the AODA and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA

### **Employment Standard**

- Implementation of policies for notification of public and employees regarding the availability of accommodation during recruitment
- Implementation of policies and procedures for accommodation of employees
- Documentation of individual accommodation plans

### **Transportation**

- Continued maintenance and improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks
- Implementation of new and improved crosswalks which include accessible auditory, visual, and tactile features
- Implementation of additional accessible parking spaces along King Street

### **Built Environment (Facilities)**

- Completion of construction of a new Fire Hall which meets accessibility requirements of the Building Code
- Renovations to Town Hall which meet accessibility requirements of the Building Code
- Regular and continued maintenance of the elevator located at Town Hall
- Installation of accessible washrooms located at the Prescott Pool
- Construction of an accessible splash pad, which provides water play for all
- Continued installation and maintenance of power doors at all Town facilities
- Ongoing review of Site Plans to identify accessibility issues and provide comments and suggestions

## **Other**

- 2018 Municipal Election: Development of a Municipal Election Accessibility Plan, which addressed specific accessibility requirements in relation to the election. Provision of accessible voting methods (telephone, internet, in-person); accessible voting locations and polling stations; voting assistance; accessible election materials offered in alternate formats

## **TOWN OF PRESCOTT PRIORITIES – 2020-2023**

- Heritage trail improvements: resurfacing and lighting
- Continued sidewalk maintenance
- Installation of an accessible swing at a Town park
- Website accessibility improvements: implementation of the Monsido tool, which highlights and assists in removing website accessibility barriers
- Continued accessibility planning for the 2022 Municipal Election