



Report to: General Committee

Date of Meeting: November 20, 2006

SUBJECT: 2006 Town of Markham Accessibility Plan
PREPARED BY: Rick Dominico, Mgr. Corporate Quality, ext 6920

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report “2006 Town of Markham Accessibility Plan” be received.

And that, approval be granted to post the 2006 Accessibility Plan on the Town’s web site.

And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To provide an updated Accessibility Plan for the Town of Markham.

BACKGROUND:

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 (ODA) is a provincial act that requires the provincial, regional and municipal levels of government as well as public sector organizations such as hospitals, universities and school boards to review their policies, programs and services through the development of annual accessibility plans. The ODA also requires that municipalities with populations greater than 10,000 establish accessibility advisory committees, with at least 50% of the members being persons with disabilities.

On May 10, 2005, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) received Royal Assent. More comprehensive in scope than the ODA, the AODA will, over time, develop standards of accessibility that apply to both the public and private sectors. Until all the standards under the AODA are in place, the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 (ODA) will remain in effect, and municipalities will continue to have planning obligations in accordance with that legislation, as well as increasing obligations under the AODA as they develop.

In 1991, Markham established a Task Force on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities which later became the Markham Advisory Committee on Accessibility. The ODA requires that the Committee advise Council about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan. In addition, the Committee is to provide Council with its advice on accessibility for persons with disabilities regarding buildings that Council purchases, constructs or significantly renovates, or leases, or which is provided to Council as a municipal capital facility.

Markham’s first Accessibility Plan was established in September 2003 for application in 2004.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

The Asset Management Department in the Community and Fire Services Commission has made considerable contributions to this Plan and is in the process of developing accessibility standards and an audit against those standards for all Town of Markham facilities. These activities are planned for 2007 and will be the subject of a report to Council in the near future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Accessibility improvements completed to date have been funded through Capital Budget allocations each year.

The cost implications for future accessibility improvements will be determined after the audit and standards work is completed in 2007.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Not applicable

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

As per 2006 Accessibility Plan

ENGAGE 21ST CONSIDERATIONS:

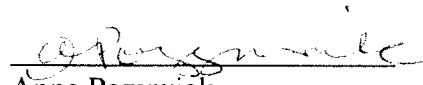
The completion of the annual Accessibility Plan contributes directly to our corporate goal for a Quality Community and our vision of providing 'Opportunities for All'.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

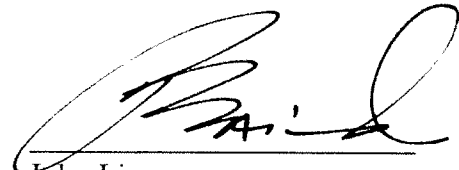
All business units that provide facilities and/or services to the public are affected and contribute to the annual plan.

RECOMMENDED

BY:


Anne Pozywiak

Director, Strategic Initiatives


John Livey
CAO

ATTACHMENTS:

2006 Accessibility Plan