

Memorandum

AAC-C 3-2024

Subject: 2024-2029 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP)

Date: October 22, 2024

To: Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Tammy Dumas, Accessibility Advisor

The purpose of this memo is to recommend that Niagara Region's 2024-2029 Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) **BE ENDORSED** by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Background Information

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requires municipalities to develop and update a MYAP, at minimum, every five years. The plan identifies the ways in which the Region will remove and prevent barriers to regional services and facilities, for people with disabilities. The Region's last accessibility plan (2018-2023) was developed in 2018.

This update to the MYAP also aligns with Regional Council's Strategic Priority of an Equitable Region and will be supported by Council's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion decision making lens.

Key Activities

In September 2023, an internal staff working group was established to support the development and implementation of the Region's next MYAP.

From January to June 2024 the Region sought input from people in Niagara, including people with disabilities, about accessibility and disability barriers to regional services, programs and facilities. LURA Consulting was retained to help design and execute this community engagement project. Almost 600 people provided input into the Region's 2024-2029 MYAP through the following activities:

- Three in person sessions (Niagara Falls, Fonthill, St. Catharines)
- Online survey (also available by telephone and in paper format)
- One virtual community meeting
- Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting with representatives from area municipality AAC's

- Niagara Region's Women's Advisory and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees

A [summary report](https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/accessibility-planning/pdf/community-engagement-summary-june2024.pdf) (https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/accessibility-planning/pdf/community-engagement-summary-june2024.pdf) of the community engagement activities was provided by LURA Consulting to the Region in July of 2024.

Plan Development and Next Steps

The draft 2024-2029 MYAP was developed using the rich and important feedback about barriers, inclusion and access gathered during Regional community consultations. The MYAP is also informed by the corporation's legislative requirements, AODA compliance tracking, and best practices. The 2024-2029 MYAP was approved by Niagara Region's Corporate Leadership Team in September 2024. The MYAP will be presented to the Region's Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council in December 2024.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Tammy Dumas, Accessibility Advisor

Attachments: Niagara Region 2024-2029 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan