City of North Battleford Accessibility Plan

Purpose

To create an inclusive city where all residents and visitors can access municipal facilities, programs, and services without barriers. This plan will guide accessibility improvements, prioritize projects, and integrate them into future budgets.

Guiding Principles

- **Equity and Inclusion:** Ensure all individuals, regardless of ability, have equal access.
- **Community Engagement:** Recommendations made to Council are informed by diverse voices, including those with lived experience.
- **Transparency:** Clear reporting on progress and budget considerations.
- **Alignment:** Integrate with existing strategic pillars such as *Community Wellbeing* and *Infrastructure Renewal* from the City's Strategic Plan.
- **Self Determination:** People with disabilities should have agency in shaping solutions.
- **Universal Design:** Environments and services should be usable by all.

Key Components

1. Inventory of Accessibility Projects

The City has developed two major reports that provide an initial inventory of improvements for the Community Accessibility Committee's consideration for placement within capital and maintenance budgets.

Those reports include:

1. The Access Communications Civic Arena Accessibility Audit Report.
2. The North Battleford Accessibility Report.

This inventory will be adjusted annually to reflect new concerns expressed by the public or the Community Accessibility Committee, as well as improved situations.

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2. Community Accessibility Committee

Establish a standing committee composed of:

- Up to four residents with diverse accessibility needs (mobility, vision, hearing, cognitive) will be appointed as public committee members.
- One member from the public, who may or may not have specific accessibility needs, will be appointed as a public committee member.
- One Councillor.
- City staff from planning, facilities, and community services will act as resources to the committee.
- As with all City Committees, the Mayor is an Ex Officio member of the committee.

Roles:

- Advise on priorities, projects and recommend changes to design standards for Council's consideration during the budgeting process
- Recommend changes to the North Battleford Accessibility Plan
- Review proposed projects that have accessibility concerns or potential issues before budget submission.
- Reviews implementation and provides feedback to Council on the effectiveness of the work completed.

Terms:

- Each person appointed to the committee will typically be appointed for a 2-year term.
- During the initial start-up of the committee, two of the public committee members will be appointed for a one-year term, to allow for a rotation of members with half the members being appointed every other year.

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3. Integration into Budget Process

- Each identified project will include:
  - Estimated cost
  - Accessibility impact score
  - Alignment with strategic pillars

- Projects will be presented during annual budget deliberations for Council consideration.
- Each proposed project will be reviewed to find external funding opportunities (provincial/federal grants, partnerships) to offset costs.

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4. Policy and Standards

- Adopt universal design principles for all new builds and major renovations.
- Reference CSA and provincial accessibility standards.

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5. Monitoring and Reporting

Metrics: number of projects completed, budget allocation, community/committee satisfaction.

- Continuous improvement through feedback loops and committee recommendations.

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6. Plan Review Period

This plan will be reviewed at the latest within 3 years of Council's approval.

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7. Public Feedback

The City values feedback on this plan and welcomes public comments on our accessibility plan using the contact information below.

Phone: (306) 445-1719

Email: Cityclerk@cityofnb.ca