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Date: October 13, 2020
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Roberta Baines, Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services
RE: Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
Report No.: CS-2020-21

AIM

To provide a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (the “Plan”) for the Town of Kingsville. The Plan describes how the Town will continue in its work to increase and improve accessibility to our Town’s goods, services and facilities over the five-year period of 2020 to 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and its regulations requires municipalities to do the following:

- Develop statements of commitment to accessibility and make them publicly available
- Create written accessibility policies and make them publicly available
- Create multi-year accessibility plans, update them at least once every five years and post them on their websites

Businesses and organizations in Ontario are required to comply with the standards set under the AODA so that people with disabilities will have more opportunities to participate in everyday life.

DISCUSSION

In 2005, the Ontario government passed the AODA, with the objective of improving accessibility for Ontarians by identifying, removing and preventing barriers faced by persons with disabilities by 2025.

In accordance with the requirements of the AODA and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) annual reporting was completed over the years identifying measures taken by the Town of Kingsville to remove barriers and improve accessibility.

Schedule B in the Plan outlines those measures taken and Schedule A outlines proposed initiatives for the years 2020-2024.

One of the initiatives will be coming due January 1, 2021. This initiative is a critical provincial requirement under O.Reg. 191/11, section 14(4.2), and it states:

By January 1, 2021, all internet and intranet websites and web content must conform with WCAG 2.0 Level AA.

AODA compliance is mandatory and municipalities can be fined for non-compliance. Fines for non-compliance can reach amounts up to \$50,000 dollars for individuals and up to \$100,000 for corporate entities.

To ensure the Town website will be fully accessible prior to January 1, 2021, a team consisting of a representative from every department has been assembled to tackle this initiative. Removing online barriers enables inclusiveness for everyone who uses our website.

Looking ahead, the Town will continue to take a proactive approach and explore opportunities to set standards for accessibility, including incorporating an accessible by design approach where programs and services are inclusive and designed for all consumers with accessibility incorporated from the onset.

This Multi-Year Accessibility Plan has been reviewed and adopted by the Kingsville Accessibility Advisory Committee at their August 19, 2020 meeting and Administration is seeking Council's adoption of the Plan.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Strive to make the Town of Kingsville a more accessible community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

Kingsville Accessibility Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and that it be posted on the Town of Kingsville website.

Roberta Baines

Roberta Baines, B.A.
Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services

Jennifer Astrologo

Jennifer Astrologo, B.H.K. (Hons), LLB
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk