



Annual Accessibility Status Report

A summary of Elgin County's accomplishments towards inclusion in 2018

Objectives and Purpose

This is the County of Elgin's Annual Accessibility Status Report update. In 2013, Elgin County released its first Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ontario Regulation 191/11). The plan outlined the County's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility, which included how to meet phased-in requirements under the AODA.

In 2015, the County released its second Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which will take the County's accessibility efforts into 2020.

This Status Report includes the accessibility initiatives that were completed in 2018 to implement the strategy outlined in the County's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

The purpose of this Status Report is to make the public aware of Elgin County's progress with accessibility implementation and to prevent and remove barriers and meet requirements under the AODA.

Compliance Reporting

Elgin County filed its third Accessibility Compliance Report in 2017 with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario under the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure.

Elgin County's Commitment Statement

Elgin County's statement of commitment establishes the vision and goals for the County to meet the legislated accessibility requirements. The County's statement of commitment is publicly available on the County website.

The County of Elgin is committed to eliminating barriers and improving accessibility for people with disabilities in a manner that respects dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity.

The County of Elgin recognizes the diverse needs of all our residents and customers and will respond by striving to provide goods, services and facilities that are accessible to all.

The County of Elgin is committed to being responsive to the needs of all its residents and employees. In order to meet the needs of people with disabilities the County will:

- Ensure policies address dignity, independence, integration and provide for equal opportunity for people with disabilities.
- Allow people with disabilities to use their own personal devices to obtain, use or benefit from the services offered by the County.

- Accommodate the accessibility needs of people with disabilities to ensure they can obtain, use or benefit from the County's goods, services, programs and facilities.
- Communicate with people with disabilities in a manner that takes into account the person's disability.

The County will promote accessibility by ensuring that compliance is met for all regulations made under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Timelines for compliance vary. In order to ensure that timelines are met, the County will establish, implement and maintain a multi-year accessibility plan. The plan will outline the County's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to people with disabilities.

Continuous Achievements in Accessibility

- The County focuses on removing barriers which may exist in our buildings and facilities, while ensuring that new buildings, leases, and renovations do not create any new barriers.
- Elgin County adopted an Accessibility Policy which outlines what the County will do to comply with the Regulations and what our customers and employees can expect.
- Elgin County/Central Elgin Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee continues to meet and review accessibility initiatives.
- The County continues to comply with the requirements of Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation including continuing to train staff, volunteers and third parties who interact on behalf of the County on an ongoing basis.
- The Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee is consulted on matters of accessibility for municipal site plans and legislated areas under the AODA.
- All library branches continue to provide accessible materials and communication supports upon request. In addition the library has several accessible materials and resources available including but not limited to: large print books, audio books, CELA Library loan access, electronic materials with zoom features, hand-held magnifiers as well as ZoomText with large print keyboards
- Notifying the public of accommodations for applicants with disabilities in its recruitment process.
- Continue to review customer feedback and take appropriate action.

Highlights of 2018

- Completed Accessibility Directorate of Ontario file review audit in April 2018 stating full compliance. Audit included accessibility policies and procedures, training requirements, accessible formats and communication supports and feedback processes
- Created Service Disruption Procedure to give staff direction on the County's Accessibility Policy and specifically how to manage service disruptions impacting accessibility
- Streamlined Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation and Ontario Human Rights Code training module created
- Assisted partner municipalities with their consultation requirements under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation
 - Recreational trails
- Assisted in procurement and installation of adult size change table in Shedden Library
- New Council orientation provided to local municipal partners
- New Provincial Offences Administration building consultation on accessible design - interior and exterior
- County of Elgin representation on the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA) Accessibility for Main Streets Advisory Committee
- Employment Standards review completed under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation with comments being filed with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

Availability of the Plan and Status Report

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Annual Accessibility Status Reports can be accessed through Elgin County's website: <http://www.elgincounty.ca/main-menu/council/accessibility>

Contact Information

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Accessible formats and communication supports available upon request.