

# Minutes from the Education and Awareness Sub-Committee

Date: Apr. 3, 2018

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Kiwanis Seniors Centre, 78 Riverside Dr., London, ON

Attendees: Jay Menard (chair), Michael Cairns, Ashton Forrest, Jacqueline Madden, and Penny Quesnel.

## AGENDA

### 1. Top-Five Ask re: “Summary and Compilation of the Accessibility Advisory Committee’s Open House Project.”

The team reviewed the documentation and has put forward its top three categories, with actionable items under each. These items appear in the documentation below. We propose the following motion:

“Be it resolved that the following statement be forwarded and presented to CAPS, with the intent of receiving approval to move to council to undertake action on the priorities disclosed herein:

The Accessibility Advisory Committee asks for the following actions to be undertaken. These asks have been formed through a combination of community statements, lived experience, and historical reference, and galvanized by our five community open houses, wherein these three key areas of deficiency: Transit, Employment, and Infrastructure, were deemed to be of the highest priority and the greatest barriers to a fully inclusive community in London.

#### TRANSIT

The City of London, in order to provide an equitable accessible transit service, will commit to the following improvements:

- Reduction of wait time from three days to a maximum of one day
- Improvement of service call times to match call/wait/response times of that of the larger transit system
- Improve booking system to meet today’s standards
- Increase of availability of accessible spaces on LTC busing or increasing paratransit rides
- Appropriate training and education of transit providers to assist in the respectful and appropriate interaction with people with disabilities, both visible and invisible.

The City of London has a vested interest, from a financial standpoint, in paratransit through its LTC commitments. As such, there can be no deflection of responsibility. An improved overall service would also align with mandates listed in AODA compliance, efforts to

increase employment access in the city, the London Plan, the various roadmaps to ending poverty, and a commitment to developing an age-friendly city.

## EMPLOYMENT

City of London to be a leader in removing barriers currently preventing people with disabilities from becoming employed, by committing to the following:

- Removing artificial, non-job-essential requirements from all postings (CPR, driver's license, vehicle)
- Improving transit to ensure that people are able to get to interviews or jobs throughout the city
- Providing examples to the community of successfully employed PWD to provide visual representation for youth career aspirational goals
- Work with unions to remove systemic barriers to hiring people with disabilities (flexible hours, work from home, ergonomic issues, breaking up a full-time job into two part-time jobs)
- Working with community partners to improve awareness of accessible hiring best practices and tangible improvements to employment issues, including that the application process is fully accessible

## And INFRASTRUCTURE

To promote a safe environment and foster equitable access to the community for all Londoners, ACCAC requests that the city:

- Improves notification of construction projects, blocked passages, and road work, bus route changes, and review the timing of pedestrian crossovers to ensure adequate opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to safely navigate through the city;
- Work with heritage departments to find a human-focused solution to promote accessibility in heritage-designated buildings
- Change snow removal minimums and prioritize pedestrian pathways and bus access points when it comes to snow removal.
- Commit to ensuring that all community gathering areas and parks under the City's mandate be fully accessible
- Ensure that City-funded housing programs live up to AODA-compliance metrics and that accessibility is a key component in the approval of development projects, both residential and commercial."

## **2. Virtual meeting trial discussion**

The committee engaged in a brief, albeit relatively informal, discussion about hosting virtual meetings.

The committee agreed that it may be easier to implement at a subcommittee level and will investigate opportunities to ensure that meeting areas have the facilities required to support these efforts.

What is needed is the following:

- A facility with free and steady wifi
- An opportunity for participants to phone into a meeting
- A technological solution (whether it's a laptop or tablet), that allows for broadcasting

Jay has committed to investigating the opportunities that are available and presenting these at the next subcommittee meeting.

## **3. Investigate/discuss benefits and impact of making ACCAC brochures/materials available in accessible formats.**

Deferred to next meeting

## **4. Next Meeting Date.**

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Kinsmen Recreation Centre, 20 Granville St., London, ON.

7 p.m.