

City of London Accessibility Advisory Committee

Orientation for members
July 25, 2019

History

- In 2001 Ontario passed the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)
- The ODA required all municipalities of 10,000 residents or more to have an Accessibility Advisory Committee with at least half the members being persons with a disability
- Often referred to as AACs (**A**ccessibility **A**dvisory **C**ommittees) or MACs (**M**unicipal **A**dvisory **C**ommittees), London refers to theirs as ACCAC or AccAC (**A**ccessibility **A**dvisory **C**ommittees) as they already used AAC for the Agricultural Advisory Committee

Role

While it is the legislative mandate of the Municipal Council to make the final decision on all matters that affect the Municipality, the role of an advisory committee is to provide recommendations, advice and information to the Municipal Council on those specialized matters which relate to the purpose of the advisory committee, to facilitate public input to City Council on programs and ideas and to assist in enhancing the quality of life of the community, in keeping with the Municipal Council’s Strategic Plan principles. Advisory committees shall conduct themselves in keeping with the policies set by the Municipal Council pertaining to advisory committees, and also in keeping with the Council Procedure By-law.

Mandate

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC) shall advise and assist "the organizations" in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free London for citizens of all abilities (universal accessibility), including persons with disabilities. This aim shall be achieved through the review of municipal policies, programs and services and the identification, removal and prevention of barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

So what is in and out of scope?

Composition

- 13 voting members
- At least 7 must be Persons with a Disability
- Balance are members at large, who may or may not have a disability (NOTE: Parent of a Child with a Disability role)*
- 10 Non-voting resource positions representing various sectors*

Composition - Resource members*

- Members from each of the following specific sector organizations;
 - Two representatives from the Boards of Education
 - One representative from the regional AODA Committee
 - One representative from the Employment Sector
 - One representative from the seniors' community of London
 - One representative from the housing and development sector
 - One Health Care or Wellness Practitioner
 - One representative from the Newcomer/Multicultural sector
 - One representative from Mental Health Sector
 - One Post-Secondary Student Representative

Composition - This Term

*This term: The municipality is currently reviewing all Advisory committee structures, terms, etc. As such they only appointed members at large to positions on advisory committees. ACCAC is slightly different in the Persons with a Disability positions are mandated by the Province (AODA). Although the Parent representative was not officially designated, it was considered in the selection process. Similarly the resource members (tan cards) were not recruited this term. Previous members were carried forward.

Sub-Committees and Working Groups

- Currently there are 4 Sub-Committees
 - Built- Environment
 - By-Law and Policy
 - Education and Awareness
 - Transportation
- ACCAC can opt to add or remove sub-committees or working groups as needed
- Working Groups meet for a shorter period of time to work on one specific objective

Roles of ACCAC members

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Parent representative*
- Sub-committee Chairs (currently 4 positions)
- Sub-Committee members
- Transportation Advisory Committee representative
- Trails Advisory Group representative
- Site Plan reviewer(s)
- Playground selection representative

Unofficial/off-shoot Roles of ACCAC members

- Community Gardens Advisory Committee representative
- London Transits Accessible Public Transit Service Advisory Committee liaison

Past Accomplishments

- Raised awareness of critical issues faced by the accessibility community (e.g. employment, transportation, infrastructure)
- Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) development
- More accessible recreation (more Spectrum programs, cost parity, Subsidy streamlined)
- Playground design mind-shift
- Expansion of Easter Seals Access2 program
- Improved accessibility guidelines for Trails, gardens, elections, Council/committee meetings
- Countless outreach and education events
- Development of a comprehensive Funding Resource Guide