



Accessibility Plan

Town of New Perlican

February 22nd, 2024

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Welcome Message / Introduction

The Town of New Perican prides itself on being an open, inclusive community. The Veteran's Memorial Community Center houses the town hall and gym in the lower level and the recreation center in the upper level. Every effort is being made to ensure that the building is accessible to all.

Advancements to Date

The town hall, which is located on the lower level of the Veteran's Memorial Community Center is wheelchair accessible. The door has a push bar on the inside. Equipment in the gym has been moved around allowing for more room around the gym. The 2 bathrooms downstairs have wheelchair accessible bathrooms with raised toilets and grab bars. The signs to the bathroom have braille. The recreation center, which is located upstairs, is wheelchair accessible via a ramp that was last upgraded in 2008-2009. Repairs are needed to this ramp, and it needs to be widened. Push light switches have been installed, as opposed to switches. The door has a push bar on the inside. The bathrooms have pull bars installed.

On Harbour Road, there is the Heritage Landing, that has a ramp for accessibility.

There is a ramp on the Gazebo on the Southside.

Notices to the public are sent by email, webpage, and social media.

Accessibility Goals

- Replace and widen ramp leading upstairs to the Veteran's Memorial Community Center.
- Install automatic doors in the building.
- Install higher toilets in washrooms in the upstairs bathrooms.
- Consult with residents/stakeholders to ascertain their views on barriers to accessibility.
- Provide information in accessible formats when requested. Email townofnewperlican@persona.ca or call 709-583-2500.
- Initiate processes where there is a more thorough review "through an accessibility lens."
- Acquisition of accessible playground equipment.
- Audio/visual improvements.

Promoting Accessibility Awareness

- The Town of New Perlican will promote Accessibility Awareness through its website and social media page.

Glossary of Terms

Accessibility Act

The provincial law enacted to achieve accessibility by preventing and removing barriers for people with disabilities. The **Accessibility Act** defines the role and responsibilities of the Disability Policy Office and the Accessibility Standards Advisory Board, and addresses standards, compliance, and enforcement.

- **Accessibility Plan** - A plan developed to address the prevention, identification, and removal of barriers in the policies, programs, practices, and services of a public body.
- **Accessibility Standards** - Accessibility standards establish clear, specific, and achievable goals to identify, prevent and remove barriers. Each standard will be introduced in stages with a timeframe for implementation. The standards and timelines would consider all sectors such as government, business, municipalities, and community organizations.
- **Accessibility Standards Advisory Board** - The Board shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) members and a maximum of nine (9) members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister. The composition of this board states that at least one-half of the members are either

persons with disabilities, or representatives from organizations of or for persons with disabilities, and at least one member shall be an Indigenous person.

- Accommodation (or disability related support) - Any technical aid or device, personal support or disability-related support or other accommodation a person may require. This can include but is not limited to: accessible meeting rooms; accessible formats such as Braille and plain language; mobility supports to attend a meeting; and, sign language interpreters, captioning or ensuring space has sensory sensitive features.
- Barrier - Something that makes it harder for some people to participate. The **Accessibility Act** defines a barrier as “anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in society, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, or a barrier established or perpetuated by an Act, regulations, a policy, or a practice.
- Disability - As defined in **Accessibility Act**: “disability includes a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment or a functional limitation that is permanent, temporary or episodic in nature that in interaction with a barrier prevents a person from fully participating in society”.
- Disability Policy Office - The Disability Policy Office is a division of government that works with all government departments and agencies to assist in the development of policies and programs that include people with disabilities and that are barrier free. This office also acts as administrative support to the Accessibility Standards Advisory Board.
- Enabling Legislation - Enabling legislation allows for further development of associated regulations and policies rather than prescribing specific requirements in legislation. Enabling legislation provides a broad focus on areas of authority that the government can act on in the future. These standards will be developed with the engagement of associated stakeholders including the persons with lived experience, business community, Public Bodies, and government departments.
- Equitable/equity -A commitment to fairness. Equitable access is different from equal access. Equality means everybody is treated the same; equity means everybody is treated fairly, based on their needs and abilities.
- Plain language - Clear, conversational communication that makes sense to the intended audience. The goal of plain language is to communicate so clearly that the intended audience can easily find what they need, understand what they find, and use the information. There are helpful resources available online, including the [Plain Language Action and Information Network](#)
- Public Body - As defined in the **Accessibility Act**, public bodies include all provincial government, agencies, boards, commissions and committees, municipalities, public educational institutions and private educational institutions. Part I (o.) of the **Accessibility Act** includes the full list.
- Standard Development Committee -Where it is determined that an accessibility standard is to be developed, the Accessibility Standards Advisory Board is to

establish a Standard Development Committee to assist the Board in developing the content and implementation of the standard. There will be terms of reference for the committee which will identify the criteria for any technical experts and timelines. Committee members will consist of persons with disabilities or organizations representing them; representatives from departments that have responsibilities related to the standard under development and representatives of organizations and public bodies that may be affected by the standard.

Statement of Commitment

The Town of New Perlican is committed to making our public body and the services we provide accessible to all, including persons with disabilities. Everyone has the right to benefit from our services equally and those who work with us have the right to perform their jobs free of barriers. We will follow the **Accessibility Act** and build on our commitment to accessibility, diversity, equality, and inclusion.

Focus Areas

- Programs and Services – ensure everyone has equitable access.
- Built Environment – make buildings, shared spaces, public transportation, and transportation infrastructure accessible.
- Information and Communication – ensure everyone receives, understands, and shares the information provided by our public body.
- Goods, Services and Facilities – ensure people with disabilities have equitable access to the goods and/or services provided by your public body.
- Accommodations – ensure disability related accommodations or supports are provided for equitable participation.
- Education – provide accessible and inclusive learning opportunities.
- Employment – make an accessible workplace, and support people with disabilities in finding and maintaining meaningful employment.

Actions / Outcomes

- Responsibilities - It will be the responsibility of the Town Clerk/Manager to ensure that the plan is updated every 3 years as per the **Accessibility Act**.
- Timeline – The plan will be evaluated every 3 years during the month of November.
- Monitoring and Evaluating – A questionnaire will be sent out to all stakeholders in October of every year to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and allow stakeholders to inform us of any barriers we may not be aware of.
- Questions and Complaints – develop an effective procedure to respond to and address questions and complaints.

Conclusion

The Town of New Perlican will work diligently in the next 3 years to further our accessibility goals. We will update our plan every 3 years with ongoing feedback from stakeholders and we will check compliance when standards become regulations that require the Town of Winterton, as a public body, to follow and we will update our plan accordingly.