



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, October 3, 2012
5:30 PM**

Larry Schneider Board Room, Main Floor, City Hall



Office of the City Clerk

**Public Agenda
Accessibility Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 3, 2012**

Approval of Public Agenda

Minutes of the meeting held on September 5, 2012.

Communications

ACC12-19 IDEA Regina "The Next Steps"

Recommendation

That this communication be received and filed.

ACC12-20 Pedestrian Ramps

Recommendation

That this communication be received and filed.

ACC12-21 Review of the 2011-2012 Work Plan

Recommendation

That this communication be received and filed.

Adjournment

AT REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

AT A MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD IN PUBLIC SESSION

AT 5:30 PM

Present: Bill Gray, in the Chair
Michelle Busch
Jennifer Cohen
Bill Gray
Richard Harmon
Michael Richter
Don Shalley
Pamela Snider
Don Trew

Regrets: Heather Petrychyn
Barbara Schmuland

Also in Attendance: Committee Assistants, Todd Blyth and Linda Leeks
Manager, Transit Operations and Accessibility, Lynette Griffin
Inclusion & Aboriginal Policy Analyst, Bev Cardinal

Approval of Public Agenda

Richard Harmon moved, AND IT WAS RESOLVED, that the public agenda be approved, as submitted.

Adoption of Minutes

Don Trew moved, AND IT WAS RESOLVED, that the minutes of the June 6, 2012 meeting be adopted, as circulated.

Committee Reports

ACC12-16 Report on the CUTA Conference - Bill Gray

Recommendation

That this report be received and filed.

Pamela Snider moved, AND IT WAS RESOLVED, that this communication be received and filed.

Communications

ACC12-17 TMP Stakeholder Meeting Report

Recommendation

That this communication be received and filed.

Michael Richter moved, AND IT WAS RESOLVED, that this communication be received and filed.

ACC12-18 Review of 2012 Work Plan

Recommendation

That this communication be received and filed.

Don Shalley moved, AND IT WAS RESOLVED, that this communication be received and filed.

Adjournment

Jennifer Cohen moved, AND IT WAS RESOLVED, that Committee adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

October 3, 2012

To: Members,
Accessibility Advisory Committee

Re: IDEA Regina – The Next Steps

The purpose of this communication is to facilitate review and discussion regarding the attached: “The Next Steps” communication from IDEA Regina. This communication is in follow-up to the Accessibility Advisory Committee’s 2011 Accessibility Forum report.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Leeks".

For/Bill Gray, Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

THE NEXT STEPS

FOLLOWING-UP ON THE CITY OF REGINA'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S
2011 ACCESSIBILITY FORUM REPORT

Published by
Individual with Disability Equity Alliance, Regina
2220 Albert St.
Regina, SK. S4P 2V2

Email: info@idearegina.ca
Website: www.idearegina.ca

April, 2012

Background

Individuals with Disabilities Equity Alliance Regina¹ (IDEA) is "*a grassroots alliance dedicated to full citizenship for individuals with disabilities*". IDEA grew out of frustration over what we considered an inadequate provincial government response to the 2001 *Saskatchewan Disability Action Plan* developed in consultation with Saskatchewan citizens people with disabilities.

Our goal is to eliminate barriers and disadvantages for all people with disabilities and achieve a more inclusive society. We believe progress has been made, particularly with the introduction of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disability* (CRPD), although much work remains to be done.

IDEA was actively involved in advocating for Canada's ratification of the CRPD. Since Canada ratified it in March 2010 we have advocated for its full implementation as soon as possible. An integral part of full implementation is the establishment of monitoring bodies that can insure that as Canadians we meet our obligations under the CRPD.

It is noteworthy that in ratifying the CRPD the government of Canada obligated all levels of government, including municipal governments, to the full implementation of the Convention

¹ www.IDEARegina.ca

Introduction

IDEA has a long history with the City of Regina concerning disability issues. Since 2006 IDEA has prepared two documents intended to bring important disability issues to the attention of the City of Regina. During the civic election of 2006 we introduced *We Love Reginabut!* an audiovisual presentation that focused on the issues of physical accessibility, employment, parking, public transportation and the development of a comprehensive plan to make Regina accessible to all of its citizens. It was at the first public showing of *We Love Regina... but!* that Mayor Fiacco committed to create the Mayor's Task Force on Accessibility.

In 2009 we released *We Love ReginaBut! , Progress towards a more inclusive Community?* In that document we noted that on some issues progress has been made, albeit slow. In addition we observed that little was done on the development of a comprehensive accessibility plan and concluded "...that the City must begin with dialogue with the disability community on the issue of a comprehensive plan that we hope will be based on the principles expressed in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*."

A number of IDEA Board members participated in the Accessibility Forum sponsored by the AAC October 1st 2011 and in January we reviewed the report of the Forum. We were gratified to see the report highlight the need to "develop a more focused, strategic and consultative approach to planning and development of programs, services and infrastructure as they affect people with disabilities". This would appear to be well within the Terms of Reference of the AAC.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is authorized to do the following:

- a. *advise on the development, implementation and evaluation of guiding principles, policies, strategies, and programs to position Regina as a model community for the inclusion of all citizens, including persons with disabilities;*

While over the last number of years progress toward a more accessible and inclusive community has been made, IDEA continues to believe, as we did in 2009, it is time to begin the dialogue with the disability community that will result in a comprehensive plan.

AS THE NEXT STEP WE RECOMMEND THAT in order to “...position Regina as a model community for the inclusion of all citizens, including persons with disabilities” the Accessibility Advisory Committee commit to use the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability* as the foundation for its work and particularly for the development of a comprehensive plan for Regina.

The purpose of the CRPD, as stated in Article 1 is:

...to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

The CRPD provides an excellent set of principles to guide strategic development. For example, Article 3 states:

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;*
- b. Non-discrimination;*
- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;*
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;*
- e. Equality of opportunity;*
- f. Accessibility;*
- g. Equality between men and women;*
- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.*

In Article 4.1 it provides a comprehensive list of actions all governmental bodies should undertake in order to “...ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability”

In short IDEA believe that by using the CRPD as it's guide, the AAC cannot fail in its task of helping “...to position Regina as a model community for the inclusion of all citizens, including persons with disabilities...”

FURTHER, WE RECOMMEND THAT the AAC adopt a more active strategy to involve people with disabilities and their organizations directly in the development of a comprehensive plan.

The strength of the CRPD grows out of the commitment of the United Nations to actively engage individuals with disabilities and representatives of the disability community in drafting the Convention. This principle, often expressed as “nothing about us without us”, is at the heart of the CRPD. The purpose of the Convention cannot be met without the active involvement of individuals with disabilities in the decision making process.

We are pleased that City of Regina saw fit as it developed the AAC to adopt this principle. We understand and appreciate that the AAC has been developed to allow for the input of the disability community initially through the membership of the AAC whose members provide important knowledge, experience, and leadership. Also, as part of the AAC’s mandate there will be regular forums like the one held last October and that information about what the Committee does is available on line. Understanding this, we believe the process can be more open and more transparent and that such a process would better service all citizens of Regina and reflect the “civil society” principles envisioned in the CRPD.

A few examples that might be considered:

To ensure transparency and make for better communication between the city and disability community third party facilitators could be used at forums.

To help develop the capacity of the disability community the AAC, on its own or in partnership with disability organizations, could sponsor education events.

To ensure that people in the disability community are better informed about the role and objectives of the AAC an email distribution list could be created and used to inform people of the work of the AAC so that individuals and organizations do not need to search through the City’s website to find out what happened at meetings. These regular messages could be sent with updates and links to reports to further build the capacity and involve the disabled community.

That in the development of a comprehensive plan AAC could adopt a consultative process similar to the one employed by the Saskatchewan Council on Disability Issue in 2001.

AND FINALLY RECOMMEND that the AAC call on the city council to publicly endorse the CRPD and commit to using the principles, goals, structure and collective wisdom outlined in the CRPD in setting future policy direction.

We contend that such a step would add substance and focus to the City of Regina's vision statement that see our city as *Canada's most vibrant, inclusive, attractive, sustainable community, where people live in harmony and thrive in opportunity.*

Conclusion

IDEA believes that in order for our community to become "... a model community for the inclusion of all citizens, including persons with disabilities", we need a guide that will help us make the vision a reality. We also believe that the CRPD is this guide. We believe it provides our best possible chance of achieving this goal.

ACC12-20

October 3, 2012

To: Members,
Accessibility Advisory Committee

Re: Pedestrian Ramps

The purpose of this communication is to allow Jennifer Cohen and field staff the opportunity to communicate information on pedestrian ramps.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Leeks".

Linda Leeks, Secretary
Accessibility Advisory Committee

ACC12-21

October 3, 2012

To: Members,
Accessibility Advisory Committee

Re: Review of 2012 Work Plan

Attached to this communication is the approved 2012 Work Plan for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The purpose of this communication is to provide an opportunity for further discussion, if required.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Leeks".

Linda Leeks, Secretary
Accessibility Advisory Committee

Accessibility Advisory Committee 2012 Work Plan

<i>Deliverable (What)</i>	<i>Action(How)</i>	<i>Resources (Who)</i>	<i>Participate /Lead</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Start/Complete Date (When)</i>
1. Accessibility Forum	Establish working group to decide on topics	All	Lead		March 2012
2. APS/Pedestrian Ramps	-Review City policies/bylaws -Research other cities including Saskatoon -Seek input from others stakeholders (ie: CNIB)	All	Lead		April 2012
3. Terms of Reference	Establish a working group to review and provide recommendations to City Council	All	Lead		Immediately
4. Communication Strategy	Establish a working group to implement a snow removal week similar to the accessible parking week (help your neighbour campaign)	All	Lead		Immediately