



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT





CONTENTS

- 1** Message from His Worship, Mayor Don Iveson
- 2** Report from the Chair, Shelley Thompson
- 3** Mandate and Role of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
- 4** Committee Structure
- 5** 2016 Committee Members
- 6** Community Engagement/Policy Review Subcommittee
- 7** Events
- 9** Networking
- 11** Social Media



MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR DON IVESON

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is helping to rewrite the disability narrative in our city through smart advocacy, hard work and an unwavering commitment to representing Edmontonians of all abilities.

From advising City Council to consulting on the design of Rogers Place to organizing the 2016 Mayor's Awards, Edmonton's AAC is bringing their A-game to everything they do.

This year, the AAC provided feedback on dozens of city projects, helping to make our city more accessible and inclusive. Thank you to the members of the AAC for your hard work, and I look forward to witnessing your future success.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Don Iveson', written in a cursive style.

Don Iveson
Mayor





REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, SHELLEY THOMPSON

As Chair of our Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), I am proud to report the many accomplishments that our dedicated and diverse members have achieved in this active year. With fifteen members divided between two subcommittees, Policy Review and Community Engagement, and our supportive administrative staff, we undertook many projects that we feel helped to further define our City as more accessible and inclusive.

Our hardest challenge was staying focused, as the issues encountered by people with disabilities are diverse. We did manage to focus our efforts in a few key areas: accessibility of infrastructure and community engagement.

Our Committee was excited to see an increase this year in our involvement and conversations around new City initiatives and infrastructure. These included Rogers Place, E-Park, Lewis Farms, and River Valley Mechanized Access. With this increase, we saw more media requests directed to our Committee and, therefore, started the process of having all our members undergo media training.

The Community Engagement Subcommittee took a lead in the production of two promotional videos. The first video was about the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), and was presented at the 2016 Mayor's Awards event. It was well received and will continue to be shown at all events that we attend or host. The second video was done in American Sign Language (ASL), to promote Closed Captioning for Movies on the Square.

The Policy Review Subcommittee continued to work with City Council on emerging issues, for example, telecommunications at City Council meetings. The AAC's mandate and procedures document was updated, finalized and approved. During last year's member recruitment, the AAC Chair was part of the short-listing for new members, which was a positive step forward to ensuring we have a diverse, well-rounded Committee.

As Chair, I am always amazed at the depth and rich perspective our members bring to our Committee work and how with each of them, their number one goal is to help ensure that the City of Edmonton becomes a place that excels at inclusion for all.

I hope you enjoy learning more about the work our AAC has done by reading this annual report!

Shelley G Thompson



MANDATE AND ROLE OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As an advisory body to Edmonton City Council, the AAC seeks to understand the unique accessibility and inclusivity needs of the Edmonton community, and how these needs relate to City Council's strategy and policy direction. The AAC undertakes a significant role in helping City Council address the manner in which its strategies and policies impact people with disabilities and provides advice on best practices for engaging Edmontonians with disabilities.

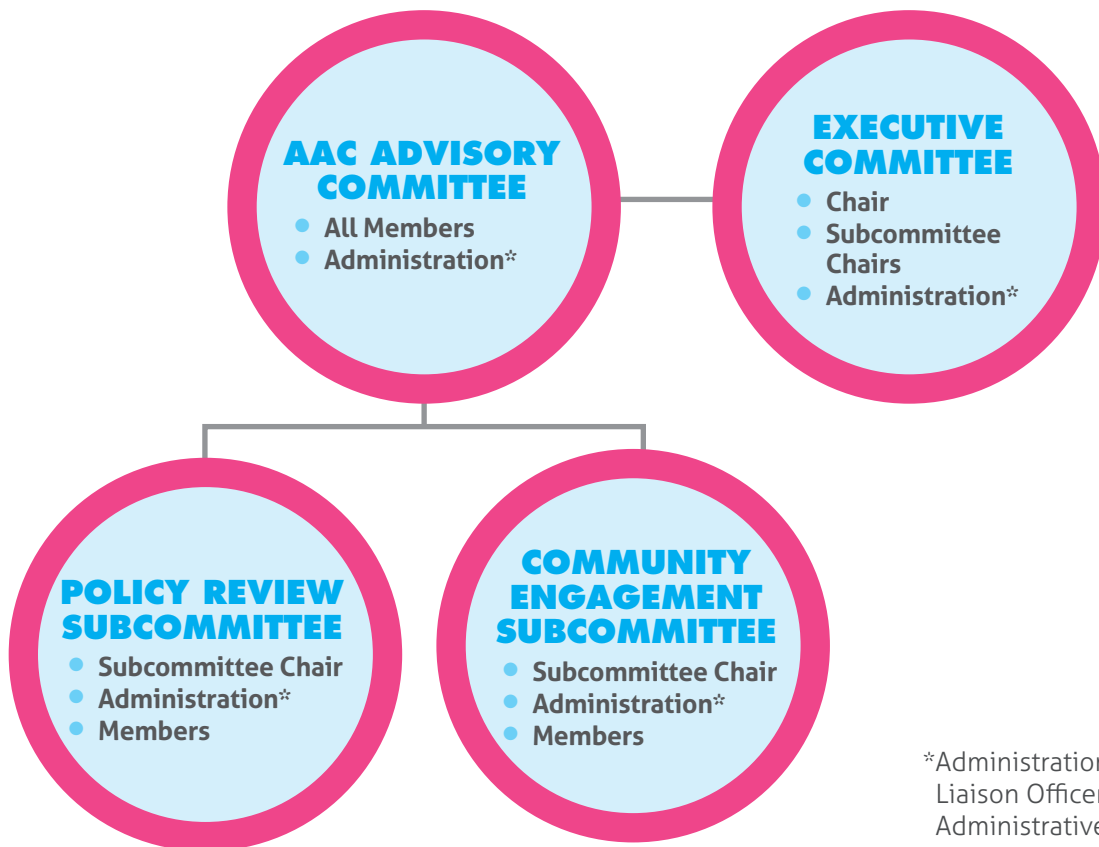
To undertake its mandate in the area of providing policy advice to City Council and City Administration, the AAC has identified the following as priority areas:

- 1. Advise** City Council and City Administration on policies, potential policies, or changes to existing policies that affect access and inclusion for persons with disabilities.
- 2. Participate in and support events** and opportunities that enhance overall awareness of inclusion and accessibility issues in Edmonton.
- 3. Engage** with broader communities of persons with disabilities in a meaningful way, and ensure that the AAC has the necessary information to undertake its advisory role.
- 4. Educate City Council, City Administration and the public** on issues and best practices around inclusion and accessibility.





COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



*Administration: Accessibility Services Liaison Officer, Events Planner and Administrative support.



2016 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Reappointments

- Janet Davies-Davis
- Dave Gajadhar
- Erin Jackson
- Aleem Jaffer
- Edward Lavallee
- Ray Marshall
- Marjorie Miller
- Shelley Thompson
- Vanessa Van
- Zachary Weeks

New Appointments

- Crystal Jones
- Chris Minchau
- Mark Orbell
- Jason Pisesky

Outgoing Members

- Anna-Maria LeMaistre
- Louise Taylor
- Marjorie Miller
- Quinn Wade

Many other activities were undertaken by the Committee in 2016. The following pages outline the activities of Subcommittees and the various events hosted by the AAC. Thank you to all of the AAC members and City staff for their support and hard work this past year.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Overview of the 2016 accomplishments:

- Updated the AAC Universal Design PowerPoint presentation;
- Developed and launched a new AAC promotional video;
- Was featured in media on several occasions. Topics included: Rogers Place, E-Park and Incline to Include.
- Community Engagement Subcommittee Chair, Zachary Weeks, was chosen as local champion for the City of Edmonton on Federal Accessibility Legislation led by the Honourable Carla Qualtrough;
- A number of AAC members received media training via the City of Edmonton; and
- Successfully launched Incline to Include program along Whyte Avenue in collaboration with City Lab.

POLICY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Overview of the Policy Committee's accomplishments in 2016:

- Continued to engage/consult with various City of Edmonton departments on accessibility-related projects (e.g. Lewis Farms, Mechanized River Valley project, E-Park, and Rogers Place);
- Continued to advise City Council on accessibility-related matters as they arose (i.e. Telecommunications at City Council meetings);
- Conducted research with respect to accessible taxi concerns;
- Drafted internal procedures to be included in the AAC guiding document;
- Updated the Universal Design Checklist;
- Created an AAC questionnaire and evaluation process; and
- Government relations tips, presented by R. Marshall AAC member.



EVENTS

Mayor's Awards

The 2016 Mayor's Awards took place on May 26, 2016 at City Hall. There were twenty-one nominees in total from which six winners across all categories were chosen. Su-Ling Goh from Global TV hosted the event with Mayor Don Iveson in attendance passing out the awards. Shaw TV profiled all of the nominees and broadcasted the event live. The 2016 award winners were:

Mayor's Award for Outstanding Service

- Nathan Kindrachuk

Mayor's Award for Accessible Homes and Buildings

- Walterdale Theatre
- Homes 2 Suites by Hilton West

Mayor's Award for Employers (Paid Employment)

- Goodwill Industries of Alberta

Mayor's Award for Employers (Volunteer)

- St. Michael's Extended Care (Svitlana Kadziela)

Ewen Nelson Award for Self-Advocacy

- Robert (Bob) Macklon

Su-Ling Goh is confirmed as MC for this year's event which will be held on May 16, 2017.

City Council Luncheon

September 14, 2016, the AAC invited Mayor Iveson, City Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team to its annual luncheon in the Heritage room at City Hall. A short presentation and quiz game highlighted 2016 AAC successes. AAC members and Council spent their time discussing these and other issues of accessibility. It was also an opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting.





Between January 1 to October 31, 2016

3,203

parking tickets issued

to people parked illegally in designated
Accessible Parking Stalls



Accessible Parking Awareness Week

On November 21, 2016 at the CBC Studio in City Centre Mall, Councillor Tony Caterina made the official proclamation followed by speeches from Erin Blaine, Bylaw Enforcement and Erin Jackson, AAC Policy Review Subcommittee Chair and accessible parking placard holder.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities ("Nothing About Us Without Us")

Every year on or about December 3, people around the world celebrate the contributions of persons with disabilities. First declared by the United Nations in 1992, the City of Edmonton, Accessibility Advisory Committee has been actively celebrating this event along with their many community partners including; Spinal Cord Injury Alberta, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Assn of Northern Alberta, City of Edmonton Disability Outreach Consultant, Elves Special Needs Society, Skills Society, Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta, Edmonton Transit System, DATS, CFB Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, NAIT Services for Students with Disabilities and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services Public Edmonton. We are grateful to our community supporters who make this event possible.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) Planning Committee is committed to creating an inclusive community that honours the contributions of all its citizens. The event celebrates the ability of persons with disabilities and the importance of inclusion for all citizens.

The IDPD celebration is funded strictly through various sponsors, ensuring it stays a free celebration for all.

This past year, IDPD was celebrated on December 1, 2016, at the Ramada Hotel and Conference

Centre. The theme 'Pecha Kucha Ability 3' featured storytelling through real life images that will enhance the lives of people living in our communities. The event saw approximately three hundred and fifty attendees gather, with forty-four organizations represented at the Community Information Fair. The formal presentation began with a presentation of the Government of Alberta, Gary McPherson Leadership Award to Bruce Uditsky, Marlin Styner Achievement Award to Louise Miller and the Award of Excellence in Community to UNITE HERE Local 47 and was followed by three dynamic Pecha Kucha Presentations as well as a musical sing-a-long and adaptive Chinese dance workout.

The 2017 IDPD event will be held at The Steadward Centre and will revolve around sports and physical activity!





NETWORKING

Listed below are the activities the Committee's members were engaged in. Members volunteered over 1000 hours to committee work in 2016.

Guests Attending Monthly AAC Meetings

- Elaine Betchinski, Director of Citizen Access and Inclusion, City of Edmonton (January)
- Paul Steier and Chad Payne, Stylebox Media (April)
- Ross Norton, Safety Codes Council member (June)
- Susan Kankkunen, City of Edmonton Facilitator (November/December)

Presenters

- Bev Matthieson – Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities – now known as Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (January)
- Henry Maisonneuve and Rob Marchak – Mechanized River Valley Access (April)
- Laura Kennedy and Alex Kotyk – Understanding Voters Needs (October)
- Judy Meintzer – Communication Disabilities Access Canada (February)
- Angela Hobson and Paul Giang – BREATHE (April)
- Mark Farr – Abilities at Work (December)
- Ryan Fehr – Google Training (June)

Conferences/Meetings Attended by Committee Members

- Fire Cadet Graduation (January 13)
- Chrysalis Gala (June 2)
- Red Carpet Affair – Spinal Cord Injury (March 18)
- Alberta Disability Forum Housing meeting (January 28, February 24, April 27)
- Edmonton Voter's consultation (June 7)
- Mayors Luncheon – Gateway Assn (May 4)
- MADE inclusive films – Art Gallery (February 24)
- Whyte Avenue site visit with City Lab (August 9)
- Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities – Meeting (July 20)
- Alberta Disability Forum (March 17, March 23)
- Rogers Place tour (September 14)
- Federal Disabilities Legislation Consultation (October 7)
- Glenrose Spotlight on Research (October 20)
- Working towards Accessibility (March 17)
- Incline to Include focus group (October 18)
- CNIB Chairs Reception and Concert in the Dark (October 26)
- BREATHE (May 25)
- Media training (May 26, November 1/2)
- Safety Council meeting (May 4)
- Design Matters Film Series (February 24)
- A Place to Call Home Symposium (May 5)



AAC Member Representation on the Following Community Committees and Boards

- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (Vanessa Van)
- United Way Ambassador (Marjorie Miller)
- Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Northern Alberta, Board of Directors (Chris Minchau)
- Board Liaison for the Rotary Vocational Services Committee (Ray Marshall)
- Edmonton Wayfinding Society (Shelley Thompson)
- Universal Design Occupational Therapy Interest Group (Shelley Thompson)
- Age Friendly Edmonton – Home for Life (Shelley Thompson)
- Edmonton Visitability Task Force (Shelley Thompson)
- Terwillegar Dog Park Walking Bridge Focus Group (Shelley Thompson)
- Fire Chief's Community Liaison Committee (Shelley Thompson, Zachary Week)
- Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre, Board of Directors (Edward Lavallee)
- Employabilities Board (Edward Lavallee)
- Edmonton Aboriginal Disabilities Association (Edward Lavallee)
- Homeward Trust (Edward Lavallee)
- Paralympic Sports Association, Board of Directors (Zachary Weeks)
- Accessible Canada Champion – Edmonton (Zachary Weeks)
- Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing (Erin Jackson)

2016 Media

- Mechanized River Valley Access Project: CBC, Global, Edmonton Journal and CTV (March 7)
- Movies on the Square – Closed Captioning Promotion: (Summer 2016)
- City Infrastructure interview: Edmonton Journal (September 1, 2016)
- Accessibility in City Council meetings: 630 Ched Interview, Edmonton Journal and Metro news (September 14, 2016)
- Rogers Place Accessibility: Metro (September 22, 2016)
- Courtesy 2 hour Parking on Game and Event Nights: 630 Ched Interview (September 26)
- Rogers Place: Global TV interview (October 4, 2016)
- Incline to Include: CBC radio interview (October 19, 2016) and Global TV interview (October 22, 2016)
- Accessible Canada – Global (October 4, 2016)
- Rogers Place Accessibility – Global (October 4, 2016)
- Mayor's Awards – Global & Shaw (May 26)
- Accessible Parking Awareness Week (APAW) – Edmonton Sun (November 20)
- APAW – Global (November 21)
- APAW – CBC Radio (November 22)
- International Day for Persons with Disabilities – Global (December 1)



SOCIAL MEDIA



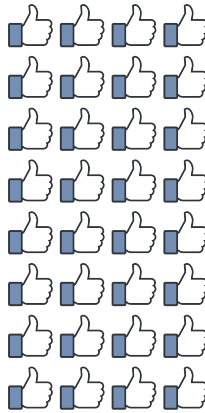
facebook.com/AACyeg

370
page likes

as of October 31, 2016

7,400

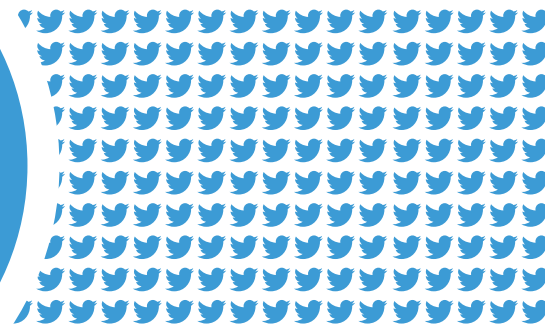
people reached in
most popular post



226
followers

as of October 31, 2016

34,2000
impressions over
a 91 day period



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facebook.com/AACyeg



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