

CITY POLICY - DRAFT



POLICY NUMBER: C602

REFERENCE:

C463 City Council 1992 08 25
C466 City Council 1993 03 23

ADOPTED BY:

City Council **This date will be added
when Council approves amendment**

SUPERSEDES:

**C463 Accessibility to City of
Edmonton Owned and Occupied
Buildings
C466 Integration of Persons with
Disabilities**

PREPARED BY: Integrated Infrastructure Services and
Citizen Services

DATE: 2019

NEXT REVIEW: 2024

TITLE: **Accessibility for People with Disabilities**

Policy Statement:

Accessibility is fundamental to the quality of life, well-being, and engagement of individuals with disabilities in the social, economic, cultural, spiritual and political aspects of society.

The City of Edmonton is committed to providing accessibility where people with disabilities have equitable opportunities to access and participate. Accessibility is applied to the City's policies, civic engagement, programs and services, communications and technology, and infrastructure (facilities, open spaces, transportation) in a way that meet individual's needs.

The City is committed to identify, remove and prevent accessibility barriers including attitudinal, systemic, environmental, communication and physical. The City acknowledges that individuals have multiple identity factors that intersect and will affect how diverse groups of people experience barriers and accessibility.

The City of Edmonton as an employer, ensures people with disabilities have access to employee services including employment opportunities within the corporation and employment policies and practices that confirm a duty to accommodate qualified individuals and current employees.

The City of Edmonton encourages businesses, institutions, organizations, and community groups to incorporate accessibility and universal design in their policies, goods, programs,

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services, communications, technology, and infrastructure including those receiving funding from the City of Edmonton.

Community group led large redevelopments and new construction supported with City of Edmonton funding will meet the exterior and interior sections of the Access Design Guide.

Principles

The City of Edmonton has aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Government of Canada accessibility principles. These principles are rooted in the understanding that barriers to accessibility are at the heart of inequalities between people with and without disabilities. The main principles are to promote, protect and ensure the full and equitable enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all people with disabilities, and promote respect for their inherent dignity.

The City of Edmonton has adopted the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design principles to support the development and implementation of policies and civic engagement, programs and services, communications and technology, and infrastructure. An environment should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to use it. This is not a special requirement, for the benefit of only a minority of the population. It is a fundamental condition of good design. If an environment is accessible, usable, convenient and a pleasure to use then everyone benefits.

- **Equitable Use:** The universal design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- **Flexibility in Use:** The universal design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- **Simple and Intuitive Use:** Use of the universal design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
- **Perceptible Information:** The universal design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- **Tolerance for Error:** The universal design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- **Low Physical Effort:** The universal design can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimum fatigue.
- **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use.

The City of Edmonton will make all efforts to achieve accessibility and universal design principles, ensuring reasonable accommodation.

Definitions:

Accessibility

Accessibility refers to the absence of barriers that prevent individuals and/or groups from fully participating in all social, economic, cultural, spiritual and political aspects of society. The term also refers to rights to access, and to universal design characteristics of products, devices, information, programs, services, infrastructure that enable independent use, or support when required, and access by people with a variety of disabilities.

Access Design Guide

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Municipal Government Act or other relevant legislation or Union Agreement.

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The document that provides guidelines to be used by the City when planning, designing, building, operating and maintaining infrastructure either owned or occupied by the City of Edmonton. The Access Design Guide applies to:

- all City of Edmonton growth projects including new construction and redevelopment where there is more than 10% growth. Growth refers to investments in new assets and projects that add to or enhance components of existing infrastructure assets that improves the type of service provided and/or improves functionality.
- all City of Edmonton renewal projects if the approved scope impacts accessibility. Renewal refers to investments in existing infrastructure to restore it to its former condition and extend its service life. However, the replacement value of renewed infrastructure remains unchanged and the size of the infrastructure asset portfolio does not increase as a result of investments in renewal
- large redevelopments and new construction projects completed by Community groups with funding from City of Edmonton

Barrier

Means anything, including anything physical, architectural, technological or attitudinal; anything that is based on information or communications; or anything that is the result of a policy or a practice that hinders the full and equitable participation in society of persons with a physical, mental, intellectual, learning, communication or sensory impairment or a functional limitation.

Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is any individual or group activity addressing issues of public interest or concern, with the goal to address the public interest or concerns and promote the quality of the community. Civic engagement includes public engagement which creates opportunities for people to contribute to decision making by City Council and Administration about the City's policies, programs, projects, and services, and communicates how public input is collected and used.

Communications and Technology

The practice of receiving, exchanging, interpreting and transmitting information including verbal, print, audio, video, websites, web applications, and web content, and other digital technologies.

Community led large redevelopment and new construction

Projects vary greatly in size and complexity, large projects have high complexity, many stakeholders, major constraints and high risk. Examples include facility and open space new developments, building and open space additions, expansions or major renovations as defined in the City of Edmonton Community Group Led Constructions Projects Guide.

Disability

Disability for the purposes of this Policy includes physical, mental, intellectual, learning, communication or sensory impairments - or a functional limitation, whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equitable participation in society.

Infrastructure

All City owned and occupied infrastructure including facilities, open spaces, and transportation in the public realm including:

- Facilities: all City of Edmonton owned and occupied buildings.

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- Open Spaces: all City of Edmonton owned outdoor land (hard or soft surface) or water that is publicly accessible, including parks, trails, and other public spaces.
- Transportation: the City's system for taking people from one place to another including streets, paths of travel (sidewalks, pathways, bike lanes), parking and transit.

Policies

Policies are Council statements that set standards of performance for the City as a whole, and guidelines for the manner in which City initiatives and activities will be carried out. They are outward-facing in that they relate to interactions between the City (and entities representing or working on behalf of the City) with the public and with entities outside the City.

Programs

A Program achieves goals and outcomes by delivering a collection of services.

Services

A service delivers valued and measurable outputs to recipients that contribute to the achievement of program goals which satisfy the needs of a target group or specific public need.

Reasonable accommodation

Reasonable accommodation means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure people with disabilities have the enjoyment or exercise on an equitable basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Universal Design

Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size or ability. By considering the diverse needs and abilities of all throughout the design process, universal design creates products, services, and environments that meet individual's needs.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed, at a minimum, every five years.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Guide the development and implementation of City policies and civic engagement, programs and services, communications and technology, and infrastructure to ensure full consideration of individual's needs and diverse abilities.
- Ensure people with disabilities are treated with respect, and have equitable access and opportunity to participate to the fullest in City policies and civic engagement, programs and services, communications and technology, and infrastructure.