

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2017





CONTENTS

- Message from the Mayor
- 2 Message from the Chair
- 3 Mandate and Role
- 4 AAC Structure
- 5 2017 Committee Members
- 6 Community Engagement Subcommittee
- 7 Policy Review Subcommittee
- 8 Events
- 1 Networking
- 12 Social Media
- 1 5 Edmonton Celebrates Accessible Cities Award



MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR DON IVESON

Access is the key to empowerment. The City of Edmonton aims to meet a high standard of accessibility in infrastructure and services; so that Edmontonians of all abilities can achieve their full potential and enjoy a high quality of life.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) plays a critical role in shaping City policies and ensures Edmontonians of all abilities are represented at the decision-making table. In 2017, the AAC helped to build a city for all by conducting site inspections of polling stations, researching the issue of accessible taxis and creating a dynamic parking awareness video, featuring Edmonton's friendly neighbourhood Spider Mable.

The AAC also provided vital advice to City Council on topics like traffic controls, the transit strategy and the City's Ribbon of Green river valley strategy, to name only a- few. Thank you to the members of the AAC for another great year of work and for their unwavering dedication to building a safe and inclusive city for all.

Don Iveson *Mayor*





MESSAGE 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, due to the large diversity and number of issues encountered by people with disabilities. Our efforts did focus on in a few key areas: Accessibility of Edmonton Elections, City infrastructure and initiatives and transportation. We were very happy to have a strong voice at the Federal Disability Legislation discussion in Toronto this year and even more pleased to see that our application for the Rick Hansen Accessible Cities award was successful.

For all the major events the AAC puts on, event champion positions were created resulting in many significant changes to take place in 2018. The Community Engagement Subcommittee took a lead in the production of two new videos this year. The first video for Parking Awareness Week featuring the amazing 'Spider Mable'. The second video was created for City staff and citizens

regarding the provision of assistive listening devices for City of Edmonton events, meetings, etc. This video was created in consultation with members of the Deaf community and will be shown in American Sign Language (ASL). The distribution of this video will be done in early 2018. The Policy Review Subcommittee continued to work on refining the issue around accessible taxis and Ride Transit.

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 6 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.





ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- All Members
- Administration*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chair
- Subcommittee Chairs
- Administration*

POLICY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

- Subcommittee Chair
- Administration*
- Members

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

- Subcommittee Chair
- Administration*
- Members

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



2017 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Reappointments

- Janet Davies-Davis
- Frin lackson
- Aleem Jaffer
- Crystal Jones
- Edward Lavallee
- Ray Marshall
- Chris Minchau
- Mark Orbell
- Jason Pisesky
- Shelley Thompson
- Vanessa Van
- Zachary Weeks

New Appointments

- Jessica Ferguson
- Paige Reeves
- Katelyn Teske

Outgoing Members

- Dave Gajadhar
- Marjorie Miller

Many other activities were undertaken by the Committee in 2017. 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. We would also like to acknowledge our past Chair, Louise Taylor, who passed away on May 5, 2017. Louise put up a strong battle against cancer and was able to end her final days as she wished, "to go out as gracefully as I can".



Louise Taylor February 3,1948 – Way 5,2017



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Overview of the 2017 accomplishments:

- Shared 2016 annual report with City Departments with an open invitation for future collaboration
- Continued consultation on accessible parking at Rogers Place
- Advised on catheter shelves and drink ledges additions at Rogers Place
- Adapted Physical Activity Symposium Advocated for ASL
- Accessible taxi survey infographic
- Successful application and recipient of the Rick Hansen Accessible Cities Award
- Voting Workshop for Edmonton Association of the Deaf
- Election staff asked AAC members to provide site visits to voting locations. Visited over 100 voting stations
- New format for Accessible Parking Awareness created a promo video with Spider Mable to increase awareness. Advertising included social media boosts, ads at Cineplex, radio ads and a twitter Q&A.

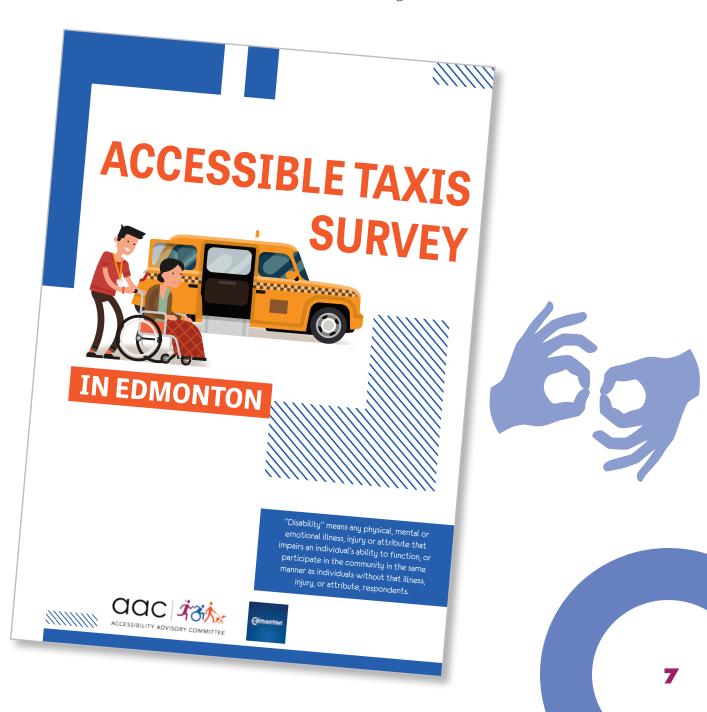
- Added two more award categories for Mayor's Awards; Restaurants & Bars and Youth
- Strengthened our social media presence
- Consulted on Ribbon of Green Engagement
- Consulted on Centre Line LRT
- Offered support on accessibility concerns at Commonwealth Stadium
- Provided advice on Garden Suites and will continue to review into 2018
- Member attendance at the Federal Disability Legislation Forum in Toronto, ON
- Approached by Voices of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) on accessible hotels, provided comments
- Initiated work on a video in American Sign Language (ASL) about the services offered by the City of Edmonton, to be completed and released in 2018
- Piloted crowdmapping apps for accessibility in Edmonton. To be explored further in 2018
- Ride Transit discussions with community groups and City Administration, and suggestions for future improvements

POLICY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Overview of the 2017 accomplishments:

- Policy C463 (Accessibility to City of Edmonton Owned and Operated Buildings)/C466 (Integration of Persons with Disabilities) review, gap analysis
- AAC Mandate reviewed and updated
- Edmonton Elections CART/ASL procedure review, overall feedback on the forums and election, presentation to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, spoke to the media about the automark device and other accessibility accommodations.
- Accessible taxi survey, engaged with Business Licensing and Vehicle for Hire staff, and drafted a letter for City Council

- Reviewed internal procedure for executive positions to ensure succession planning
- Drafted internal procedures to be included in the AAC guiding document
- Monitored Council agendas (current issues/topics for accessibility)
- Built a strong relationship with the Edmonton Transit Advisory Board (ETSAB) as well as the DATS Advisory Group (DAG) to collaborate and be proactive in looking at future issues of accessibility in transportation.
- Collaborated with the Edmonton Protect and Connect Steering Committee





EVENTS

Mayor's Awards

The 2017 Mayor's Awards took place on May 16, 2017 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 Councillor Andrew Knack, Councillor Scott McKeen and Councillor Tony Caterina who were also in attendance and helped to pass out the awards. Shaw TV profiled all of the nominees and broadcasted the event live. The 2017 award winners were:

Mayor's Award for Outstanding Service

Spinal Cord Injury Treatment Centre Society (SCITCS)

Mayor's Award for Accessible Homes and Buildings

Residential

• Grovenor Manor - Pelham Master Builder

Non-Residential

• Oilers Entertainment Group - Rogers Place

Facility or Dwelling Designed for Persons with Disabilities

ExquisiCare - Windermere Manor

Mayor's Award for Employers (Paid Employment)

 QualiGlass Windows and Doors Ltd. (Chris Eckert and Richard Macheuck)

Mayor's Award for Employers (Volunteer)

Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association

Ewen Nelson Award for Self-Advocacy

Jessica Pigeau

Su-Ling Goh is confirmed as MC for this year's event which will be held on May 31, 2018.

City Council Luncheon

On September 8, 2017, 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 2017 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.





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

Every year on December 3, people around the world celebrate the contributions of persons with disabilities, as first declared by the United Nations in 1992. The City of Edmonton and the Accessibility Advisory Committee have been actively celebrating this event along with their many community partners including: Spinal Cord Injury Alberta, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Northern Alberta, City of Edmonton Disability Outreach Consultant, Elves Special Needs Society, Skills Society, Edmonton Transit System, DATS, CFB Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, Norquest Students in the Disability Management program, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services Public Edmonton along with The Steadward Centre and University of Alberta.

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 event 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 4, 2017, at The Steadward Centre, University of Alberta. The theme in 2017 was Health, Wellness and Sports. The event saw approximately three hundred and fifty attendees gather, with forty-two organizations represented at the Community Information Fair. There was something for everyone: Adapted yoga, adapted zumba and a sit to be fit class. The formal presentation began with Miss Wheelchair Canada singing O'Canada and then a presentation from the Premier's council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. An Award of Excellence in Employment was presented to Carrie Rodgerson (ATB Financial) and an Award of Excellence in Public Awareness to Mackenzie Meyer. The awards were followed by wheelchair rugby demonstrations and try outs.



Accessible Parking Awareness

For 2017, AAC members decided to switch up the format of Accessible Parking Awareness Week from a proclamation to a broader community-oriented educational campaign. A number of activities took place in the months of November and December to showcase Accessible Parking Awareness.

From November 27th through to December 1st, 2017 radio ads continued to educate those on accessible parking. On November 29th, AAC member Mark Orbell, along with Communications staff, Erin Blaine (Coordinator Parking Enforcement Services) and Susan Barness (Bylaw Officer) created a Twitter Fest, which was very successful. Citizens could call in with a question and we had everyone all in one room to answer. We will definitely look at doing this again for next year!

November 29, 2017 was the roll out date for the Spider Mable video on Accessible Parking on Youtube, as well as a shorter version that was showcased at some Cineplex Movie theatres between December 15^{th} and December 28^{th} , 2017.

161,500 active Parking Placards as of April 1, 2017

153,804 active Parking Placards as of April 1, 2016

146,418 active Parking Placards as of April 1, 2015

139,401 active Parking Placards as of April 1, 2014

121,000 active Parking Placards as of March, 2011

78,000 active Parking Placards in 2008

20,000 active Parking Placards in 1992





Guests Attending Monthly AAC Meetings

- Susan Kankunnen City of Edmonton, Corporate Volunteer Resource Coordinator: assisted in AAC goal setting
- David Smith Community Member
- J. Adams, L. Crayston Albery and M. Patterson Inclusion Alberta presentation

Presenters (General Meeting)

- Dan Nielsen City of Edmonton, Policy and Communications Advisor: Office of the Mayor presentation
- Darryl Mullen City of Edmonton, Director Traffic Engineering and Brad Vanderhoek City of Edmonton General Supervisor Network Operations: Temporary Traffic Control Safety and Accessibility presentation
- Jane Taylor City of Edmonton, Principal Urban Designer: Urban Design Guidelines presentation
- Mayja Embleton City of Edmonton, Community Planning Strategist; Alex Kotyk City of Edmonton, Project Lead Elections and Census and Iain MacLean – City of Edmonton, Director of Elections and Census: Edmonton General Election 2017 presentation
- Sarah Feldman City of Edmonton, Director Planning and Scheduling: Transit Strategy update
- Angela Hobson City of Edmonton, Ecological Planner and Ryan Andres City of Edmonton, Planner II: Ribbon of Green presentation
- Crystal Jones Human Rights, Live Captioning and Deafness Canada Wireless Plans
- David Rauch City of Edmonton, Strategic Planner: Crowdsource presentation
- Merico Tesolin CNIB presentation
- Peter Ney Inclusion Alberta Ride Transit concerns
- Paul Schmold City of Edmonton, Acting Director of DATS and Famida Martin City of Edmonton, Strategic Coordinator: Edmonton Transit presentation
- Tara Pidborochynski, Emily Hussey and Bonnie Dobbs Provincial Transportation Needs Assessment of Seniors and Persons with Disabilities presentation



Conferences/Meetings Attended by Committee Members

- February 3 University of Alberta Transportation Survey
- February 23 DIY Dialogue
- February 8 Accessibility Canada Meeting (Toronto)
- March 4 Board Leadership workshop
- March 23 25 Adapted Physical Activity Symposium
- May 4 Gateway Association Mayor's Luncheon
- June 8 Chrysalis Breakfast Gala

- June 15 Edmonton Association of the Deaf Elections Workshop
- June 20 21 Disability Awareness Training
- September 13 Laurel Awards
- September 26 Medic Alert Connect and Protect Program Steering Committee
- October 17 Inclusion Alberta Fundraising Breakfast
- October 25 Glenrose Strategic Planning Focus Group
- November 28 Abilities at Work Program Update

AAC Member Representation on the Following Community Committees and Boards

- Dats Advisory Group DAG (Aleem Jaffer)
- Rotary Employment Partnership Steering Committee (through Inclusion Alberta) (Paige Reeves)
- Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Northern Alberta – Chris Minchau
- Connect Society's Board Crystal Jones
- Affordable Accessible Housing Group Shelley Thompson

- Home for Life Shelley Thompson
- Universal Design Occupational Therapy Interest Group
 Shelley Thompson
- Edmonton Wayfinding Society Shelley Thompson
- Employabilities Edward Lavallee
- Amiskwaciy History Series (reconciliation) Edward Lavallee
- Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre Edward Lavallee

2017 Media Requests

- Global TV media request: January 20 re: DATS fare for seniors
- Metro Edmonton media request: February 28 re: charging for sidewalks space
- Edmonton Sun media request: April 8 re: Alberta disability advocate position
- Global TV Media request: November 29th re: SpiderMable
- Radioactive CBC media request with Portia Clark:
 December 12 re: Funicular

- CBC Edmonton media request: December 14 re: Funicular
- Global TV media request: December 10 re: Funicular
- 630 CHED Ryan Jespersen show media request: December 12: re: Funicular
- Metro news Canada media request: December 10 re: Funicular
- AMI request: September 2017
 re: Edmonton Elections



SOCIAL MEDIA

4

facebook.com/AACyeg

454 follow AAC Page

APAW – HEY! That's not your stall starring Spider Mable reached 25.5K people.

367 followers

Top tweet for Dec 2017 was about Measuring Up on IDPD.

14 retweets and 11.1K impressions.











EDMONTON CELEBRATES ACCESSIBLE CITIES AWARD

On May 31. 2017, the Rick Hansen Foundation announced the winners of its Accessible Cities Award with the cities of Winnipeg, Richmond, and Edmonton being honoured for the initiatives they are leading to promote universal access and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

The Rick Hansen Foundation launched the Accessible Cities Award in fall of 2016 to recognize municipalities for creating and building accessible places and spaces for people with disabilities. When physical barriers within the built environment are removed and people with disabilities can live, work and play to their full potential, the entire community benefits.

Says Rick Hansen, Founder & CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation, "It gives me great pleasure to announce the winners of the Accessible Cities Award. These cities are demonstrating leadership and determination in creating greater accessibility in our built environments. Congratulations to Winnipeg, Richmond, and Edmonton for their successes in pursuing best

practices by expanding universal access and for inspiring others to do the same."

The City of Edmonton has made accessibility a priority in all areas. Three of the City's six 10-year strategic goals specifically address improving accessibility for its citizens and outline ways in which Edmonton is striving to become an inclusive, accessible and affordable community. Edmonton city staff demonstrate collaborative leadership and work to help incentivize private businesses to increase access.

"Edmonton is enriched by the contributions of persons with disabilities. I am proud our city is being recognized for the strides we've made to strengthen our community, as it is only stronger when everyone can be included," said Mayor Don Iveson. "With the help of our Accessible Advisory Committee, our city is creating spaces and places for all".

CONTACT US

Website

edmonton.ca/accessibility

Email

accessibility@edmonton.ca



facebook.com/AACyeg



@AACyeg



