



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

1:00 PM

**Regional Headquarters Building
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby**

Please note: The Region of Durham continues to hold electronic meetings for Advisory Committees with limited in-person attendance at this time. Members of the public may [view the Committee meeting](#) via live streaming. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing delegations@durham.ca and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Adoption of Minutes**
 - A) Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on November 22, 2022 (Attachment #1)
 - B) Minutes of the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees held on November 22, 2022 (Attachment #2)
- 4. Presentations**
 - A) Dawn Campbell, Business Development Manager, Accessibility-IT, re: Accessibility-IT
 - B) Doreen Hume-McKenna, Regional Housing Coordinator, Lakeridge Health, re: Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty

- C) Allison Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, re: Project SEARCH

5. Discussion Items

- A) Bill 23: More Homes, Built Faster Act: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-2023
- B) Honorarium Municipal Scan Update
- C) New Accessibility Advisory Committee Members
- D) Durham College Oshawa GO Station Accessibility
- E) Annual Accessibility Report Update for 2021 and 2022

6. Correspondence

There are no items of correspondence

7. Information Items

- A) Education Sub-Committee Update
- B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)
- C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

8. Reports for Information

There are no reports to consider

9. Other Business

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM

11. Adjournment

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:03 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: D. Campbell, Whitby, Chair
H. Hall, Participation House
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS
L. Houston, Community Care Durham attended the meeting at 1:11 PM
R. Purnwasie, Ajax, Vice-Chair
S. Sones, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: W. Henshall, Whitby
A. Beach, Oshawa

Staff

Present: M. Barta, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***all staff except M. Barta participated electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by H. Hall, Seconded by S. Sones,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on
Tuesday, September 27, 2022, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Heather Hall, re: TeachAbility

Heather Hall provided a presentation with regards to TeachAbility.

H. Hall advised that she began her company, TeachAbility, after working at Participation House with adults with disabilities. She explained that TeachAbility is

comprised of various components designed to build skillsets to gain more independence and works with people of all abilities such as limited hearing, limited sight, and mobility restrictions. Her program provides 3-hour one-on-one sessions where she travels to the home or business where assistance is required.

H. Hall provided an overview and shared a brief video presentation highlighting the services provided through TeachAbility and advised that the video is provided to customers requesting to learn more about the services offered.

H. Hall responded to questions with regards to the organizations TeachAbility is working with; the geographical location for services; and third-party funding, grants, insurance plans, or benefit programs available to assist with payments.

5. Discussion Items

A) Accessibility Advisory Committee Membership Application Process

K. Wall advised that the membership applications to apply for the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the next term of Council are still open and applications will continue to be accepted until all vacancies are filled. She also advised that applications are currently being reviewed and candidates will be contacted for interviews this month, and that a Council representative for the committee will be nominated at the December 21, 2022 Regional Council meeting.

B) Delegation Request re: Accessible Parking Permit

K. Wall advised that there is a community member that is a resident of Ajax that is wishing to discuss accessibility parking permits and veterans' licence plates in the Region of Durham. K. Wall provided a brief overview of the accessibility parking permits and veterans' licence plate by-laws throughout the Region of Durham for lower-tier municipalities and requested feedback from Committee members.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have the Ajax resident delegate at the January 24, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

6. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

7. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

K. Wall asked which Committee members who would like to remain on, or join, the Education Sub-Committee. Discussion ensued with regards to the main focus of the sub-committee and frequency of meetings.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

H. Hall advised that the November meeting was cancelled and the next regularly scheduled meeting is on May 16, 2023.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

K. Wall provided the following update:

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities is taking place on December 3rd and the United Nations is hosting a commemorative virtual event, which was provided to Committee members.
- The showcase video of the Accessibility Award champions for 2022 will be shared at the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees on November 22, 2022 and will be posted on www.durham.ca/accessibility on December 2, 2022.
- There will be a virtual event for Durham Region staff regarding Ability Acceptance presented by Mitchell Daniels from Grandiview Kids on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, the invitation will be extended to Committee members.
- Michael Roche was presented with the 2022 Accessibility Award on behalf of the AAC on November 18, 2022. He will be acknowledged as part of the 9 champions within the news release.

Discussion ensued with regards to returning to in-person meetings and being paid honorarium for attending advisory committee meetings. K. Wall advised she would provide an update at the next meeting.

8. Reports for Information

There were no reports to consider.

9. Other Business

A) Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games

D. Campbell advised that the Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games being held February 3-5, 2023 is now accepting applications for volunteers.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by H. Hall, Seconded by D. Hume-McKenna,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

D. Campbell, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

JOINT FORUM OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

A Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 6:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

Present: Region of Durham AAC
Dawn Campbell, Whitby, Chair
Doreen Hume-McKenna, DMHS
Wayne Henshall, Oshawa
Rosanne Purnwasie, Ajax, Vice-Chair
Allison Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Karen Wall, Accessibility Coordinator
Kaitlin Smith, Committee Clerk

Town of Ajax AAC
Lisa Bower
Sepelene Deonarine
Heather Steeves
Rosanne Purnwasie
Sarah Moore, Accessibility Coordinator

Township of Brock
Jodi Foreman
Tony Laundrie
Jolene Munro

Municipality of Clarington
Shea-Lea Latchford

City of Oshawa AAC
Julia McCrea
Steven Moenster

City of Pickering AAC
Saima Fatima
Tim Higgins, Accessibility Coordinator

Township of Scugog AAC
Candace Morgan
Christy Harrison, Accessibility Coordinator

Town of Whitby AAC
Denise Laframboise
Paul Scott

Michele Cotton, Accessibility Coordinator

Other Attendees

Judy Christianson

Patricia Hines

Anu Sharma

Francine and Heather, Canadian Hearing Services

***all members of the committee participated electronically**

1. Welcome/Opening Remarks

A. Hector-Alexander, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, welcomed everyone to the 18th Annual Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees.

A. Hector-Alexander read the following land acknowledgement:

The Region of Durham exists on lands that are the traditional and treaty territories of the communities that are covered under the Williams Treaties, including the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and the Chippewa Nations of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama. Our collective history shows us that policies and strategies can be used to strengthen communities or eradicate their rights. We understand that the decisions we make today will impact generations to come. We honour, recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples as rights holders of the lands and waters on which we have the privilege to live, work, and play. In seeking reconciliation, we continue to build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, as well as the large Metis community and growing Inuit community here in Durham. We commit to learning from Indigenous values and knowledge, building opportunities for collaboration, and recognizing that we are all connected.

2. Presentation – Rabia Khedr

K. Wall introduced Rabia Khedr. K. Wall stated that Rabia is dedicated to equity and justice for persons with disabilities, women and diverse communities and most recently served as board member of Accessibility Standards Canada and the Minister's Disability Advisory Group. K. Wall stated that she previously served as the commissioner for Ontario Human Rights Commission, she is the National Director of Disability Without Poverty and Chief Executive Officer of DEEN Support Services. She is a founder of Race and Disability Canada, is a board member of the Muslim Council of Peel, and a board member of the Federation of Muslim Women. She has campaigned in municipal elections to serve as a city councillor in Mississauga and has received numerous awards for her humanitarian services including a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

R. Khedr read the following land acknowledgment:

Speaking from the Traditional Territories of the Mississaugas of New Credit that honours and recognizes that we occupy these lands and commit to truth and

reconciliation for our Indigenous peoples and their rights and our responsibility to support them in accessing their rights and ensuring their rights.

R. Khedr stated that she is a person with a disability with lived experience and is blind. She spoke about the new barriers that emerged for people with disabilities in 2020 where existing barriers became far greater and exacerbated for people with disabilities. She stated that able bodied people suddenly found ways to accommodate themselves in ways that often were seen as an impossible accommodation for people disabilities, which is something that some people with disabilities have requested for a long time prior to the pandemic but were denied

R. Khedr spoke about the Canada Emergency Response Benefit that became available to low-income Canadians. She stated that people with disabilities saw no change to provincial supports like the Ontario Disability Support Program. In September 2020, the Prime Minister advised that there would be a disability benefit available to support low-income Canadians with disabilities to bridge the gap between their income and the official poverty line.

R. Khedr stated that Disability Without Poverty was established in early 2021 and she was asked to Chair the organization. She reported that philanthropic donors provided generous support for the initiative and through research and data, they were able to tell the story of disability poverty and how it could be addressed. Bill C-35 was introduced in June 2021, which is an Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada Disability Benefit.

R. Khedr stated that when Parliament was dissolved, Bill C-35 was as well. This was when Disability Without Poverty began advocating for people with disabilities across Canada to reinstate the Canada Disability Benefit by conducting interviews, publishing articles and petition letters being read in the House of Commons. She advised that in the summer of 2022, Bill C-22 was introduced and passed third reading in October 2022 with budgeting for the benefit to happen in Spring 2023 and delivery of the benefit in September 2023.

R. Khedr encouraged members to connect with Members of Parliament that sit on HUMA, the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, to push to have Bill C-22 passed into law.

K. Wall thanked R. Khedr for providing information and insight on how to move forward with community justice and enlightening the audience on Bill C-22, the Canada Disability Benefit and how the Disability Without Poverty movement began.

3. Accessibility Awards Presentation

A video was presented showcasing the amazing people and initiatives that are being accomplished in the community to enhance and improve accessibility over the past year.

A. Hector-Alexander stated that each year the Regional Municipality of Durham recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have improved accessibility in their community, and that nominations for the Awards are made by the local Accessibility Advisory Committees of the municipalities within Durham Region. A. Hector-Alexander stated that each award recipient has succeeded in removing or preventing barriers and their efforts have helped to ensure that citizens have access to meaningful involvement and full participation in their community

Town of Ajax – Barb Dowds

Barb Dowds was an Ajax Accessibility Advisory Committee member from 2010-2022. Barb's advocacy for those who do not have the platform to speak out for their needs and recognition for accessibility and inclusion in the Ajax community and beyond, positions her as an exemplary accessibility ambassador and advocate. Throughout her tenure on the Committee, Barb served as Committee Chair for several years, and led numerous initiatives to identify and break down barriers in her community, including conducting facility site assessments, reviewing site plans, and helping staff set up mobility device obstacle courses at the bi-annual Library Accessibility Fair. In recent years, you could always find Barb taking part in the Accessible Ajax Information Station at Town community events or attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the latest committee accomplishment, like installation of beach access-mats at the waterfront park, or at the ready for the Committee's #RespectTheSpace campaign. Barb's strength, determination, compassion and advocacy for access and inclusion has made her a role model for breaking down barriers to her fellow Committee Members and staff.

Sarah Moore, Ajax Accessibility Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of Barb Dowds and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Brock – Brock Township Public Library

The Brock Township Public Library is a three-branch system with facilities located in Sunderland, Cannington, and Beaverton. Throughout the pandemic, the Brock libraries have shown their dedicated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility for their patrons and community members through their advancements in provisions of service during the pandemic. They quickly and seamlessly responded to meet the needs of their community by pivoting to online programming including virtual children's story times, curbside book pick-ups, and wifi-hubs for public use. The Brock Township Public Library continues to play a central role in meeting the educational, informational, cultural, recreational, health and social care needs of their community.

Katie-Scarlett MacGillivray accepted the award on behalf of Brock Township Public Library and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

Municipality of Clarington – Kingsway Hardware – Naveed Chico Khan

Kingsway Hardware owner Naveed Chico Khan is being nominated for the exceptional customer service he provides to residents of Clarington, particularly those who have mobility issues or use mobility devices. There is an accessible parking spot located just outside the front of the store and customers are able to call into the store or go to the customer service desk to request their items and staff will bring the items to their car. Many residents say that though the store itself is not barrier-free, the owner goes out of his way to assist people and make shopping easier. Residents have also expressed that the business owner and his staff will go out to the sidewalk to assist customers if requested and make the shopping experience easier.

Naveed Chico Khan of Kingsway Hardware accepted the award and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

City of Oshawa – Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty – Nathan Gardner

The Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty works to relieve the burdens of poverty and social dislocation within the economically deprived and street population of Oshawa. Originally a drop-in centre, the Back Door Mission has expanded its services during the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently operating Mission United. The Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty began as an outreach program of Simcoe Street United Church in 1998. Since that time, it has grown with increasing numbers of people coming to its doors for help and community. To better support increased program capacity and broadening of services, the Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty incorporated as a separate not-for-profit organization in 2014. Mission United is a low-barrier access hub for essential services, social supports, and primary health care. It provides wrap-around client support services to individuals in Durham Region who are dealing with homelessness, housing insecurity, mental health and addiction concerns, and food access challenges.

Nathan Gardner, on behalf of Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty, accepted the award and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

City of Pickering – Peter Bashaw

Peter Bashaw was appointed by Council to the Pickering Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on October 28, 2013 and has been a high-performing AAC member continuously since that time. Peter's wisdom, judgement, technical expertise and fabulous networking skills have been invaluable to the Pickering Committee. Among many accessibility topics that Peter feels strongly about, his passion for advancing accessible housing and expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities are especially noteworthy. Since Peter has now moved to Whitby, he will not qualify to carry on with the Pickering AAC in

2023, but undoubtedly will continue to advocate strongly for accessibility in this new venue.

Peter Bashaw accepted the award and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Scugog – Two Blokes Cider

Matthew Somerville and Andrew Paul are the proud owners of Two Blokes Cider which is located in Seagrave in the Township of Scugog. In 2020, a Site Plan application for Two Blokes Cider located at 21300 Simcoe Street came before the Scugog AAC for review. The committees' comments were addressed and implemented including: an accessible entrance to the facility with automatic entrance doors; an accessible washroom with automatic doors and washroom fittings; an entrance path to the building with the required minimum width of 1.5 meters and that is at grade to allow accessible access to the facility. An accessible pathway linking the two buildings has also been incorporated and additional accessible parking is available at the farm.

Matt Somerville, on behalf of Two Blokes Cider, accepted the award and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Uxbridge – Uxbridge Lions Club

The Uxbridge Lions Club is the largest volunteer service club in the world. The Uxbridge Chapter has embarked upon an ambitious endeavour to create a "Universal Playground". The club has worked diligently with a consultant with expertise in design and disability and has been regularly sharing the team's progress and seeking input each step of the way. The Uxbridge Lions Club is committed to creating a space that families of all ages and abilities can enjoy together. Their vision has grown, and the design has been adapted numerous times. With input from the expertise from the Uxbridge Accessibility Advisory committee and their professional consultant, the Lions' Club has demonstrated their commitment to accessibility for all. The Uxbridge Lions Club continues to champion inclusivity for the Town of Uxbridge and Elgin Park has hosted a number of events throughout the year with the hopes of bringing a broader audience and increase accessibility to the park for the community.

Bob Armitage, on behalf of the Uxbridge Lions Club, accepted the award and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

Town of Whitby – WindReach Farm

WindReach Farm strives to enrich the lives of persons of all ages with disabilities and/or special needs by providing opportunities to enjoy experiences in farming, nature, outdoor recreation, and other activities and to share those experiences with family and friends. WindReach Farm uses an accessible farm environment to provide therapeutic programs and services for individuals of all abilities. WindReach Farm Foundation is committed to raise funds, awareness, and profile to support the programs and services delivered by WindReach Farm that inspire,

empower and change lives. Their LEARNING-4-LIFE adult day program re-defined creativity during COVID-19. It went virtual, connecting with participants through virtual barn and local attraction visits, art projects, and movie afternoons. Programming is back onsite and at 85% capacity, welcoming many new faces too. In 2022, they expanded to add a second cohort Monday through Friday to reach more adults of all abilities in Durham Region and beyond.

Sarah Flogan and Carol Dahlquist, on behalf of WindReach Farm, accepted the award and congratulations were offered from K. Wall, Accessibility Coordinator.

A. Hector-Alexander thanked all the recipients for their leadership in making Durham a more inclusive and accessible region to all.

K. Wall advised that the 2022 Accessibility Awards Presentation video will be shared on www.durham.ca/accessibility on December 2, 2022.

4. Melly's Market and Café Video

K. Wall advised that Ellen McCrae and Aimee Ruttle are the directors at Melly's Market and Café in Whitby and delivers the Melly's Interactive Development Program, which is an individualized, immersive experience built for the lifelong learning and growth of adults with disabilities. Melly's serves to be an example to the community of what the disability community is capable of and to help them gain the work experience they are asking for.

K. Wall shared a brief video that illustrated how Melly's has created a one-of-a-kind accessible Café and Market that offers the community a place to celebrate all abilities, while enjoying handcrafted drinks and food.

5. Closing Remarks

A. Hector-Alexander recognized Multi-Media Coordinator Ed Zucca and Accessibility Coordinator Karen Wall for meeting with the accessibility award recipients.

K. Wall recognized the Accessibility Advisory Committee volunteers for their time, commitment, dedication, and input they provide to municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM