

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

January 2014 – January 2019



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALVIN

Submitted to:
Mayor and Council
Municipality of Calvin

Submitted by:
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Clerk - Treasurer

Objectives

The objectives of this plan are as follows:

1. To identify barriers within the Municipality of Calvin on an ongoing basis
2. To describe the measures which the municipality will take in order to remove and prevent these barriers in the upcoming five year period
3. To review, on an annual basis, what measures have already been taken to identify, remove and prevent these barriers.
4. Describe how the municipality intends to make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Physical description of the Municipality of Calvin

The Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin was incorporated in 1887. It is located in the Nipissing District of Ontario. The municipality is bordered on the west by the Township of Bonfield, on the east by the Township of Papineau-Cameron, on the south by the unorganized township of Lauder and on the north by the Mattawa River.

The Municipality has a population of approximately 602 persons. There are no schools, hospitals or seniors homes located within its boundaries. The Municipality has a Community Centre which is utilized by many organizations, associations, women's groups and the community at large for weddings, celebrations etc. This Centre also houses the municipal offices. Next door to the Community Centre is the Municipal Garage and beyond that the Volunteer Fire Department building completes the municipal complex.

Council Commitment

The Council of the Municipality of Calvin is committed to:

- 👉 The continuous improvement of access to all public municipally owned facilities and services for all those with visible and non-visible disabilities
- 👉 To provide equal access to municipal services to those with disabilities

The Council has authorized the Clerk - Treasurer to prepare a five year accessibility plan that will assist and enable the Council to meet its commitments.

Site Audit (Informal)

Since June of 2003 this Accessibility Plan has been in place. The staff and council participate in ongoing reviews to identify the barriers to people with disabilities within the public municipal buildings and to municipal information.

Several barriers were initially identified; many have been addressed to date. As the Plan is reviewed and updated other identified barriers to accessibility will be addressed.

Barriers Identified

The following barriers to the Municipal Buildings and to municipal information have been identified during the informal audit. Over the next five years these barriers will each be addressed in turn bearing in mind the budget restraints of the municipality and feasibility.

BARRIER	TYPE OF BARRIER	PLAN OF ACTION
Rear entrance to community centre is not accessible without assistance due to manual doors, flooring mats and adjustments required to the slope at the doorway to allow for easy wheelchair access..	Architectural	Modify slope at rear entrance, remove or replace current floor mat at that location with a more accessible floor finish. Review possibility of accessible door installation at this location.
Communication to community.	Communications	The local publication is not accessible to those with visual impairments. Possible increase in font size and availability via an electronic format.
Access to municipal information i.e. by-laws, local publications, notices etc.	Technology	Creation of a municipal website so that information is readily available to all. Possible addition of a "text only" version of information so that those who are visually impaired can access the information via computer readers. To continue review of website upgrades.

Areas to be Addressed in 2014 - 2019

In 2013 the main entrance to the municipal offices and community centre were brought up to accessible standards with the installation of an accessible door, reduced counter height and replacement of floor coverings to allow accessibility. Over the next five years the municipality will review modifications necessary for accessibility to the rear entrance of the community centre which will make the entire facility accessible. Focus will also be on providing our local monthly publication in an accessible format upon request. Limited internet access and poor/slow internet service in our area has been a hindrance to making our documents more accessible and has slowed the process of upgrades or replacement of our current website. Costs will be reviewed prior to each annual budget and council will authorize available funding for each of the five years in this period.

Review of the Plan

As per the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c.11(the AODA)* this plan will be reviewed on five year basis, with review of budget requirements on an annual basis throughout the five year period, allowing Council, staff and the public to monitor the barriers identified and the direction to which the Municipality is moving to remove such barriers.

Communication of the Plan

This plan will be available from the municipal office, by mail and shall be posted on the municipal website www.calvintownship.ca It will be made available in other formats if necessary; braille if possible and larger font if requested.

Summary

The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c.11 (the AODA)* is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation. The AODA mandates that each and every municipality shall prepare an accessibility plan.

2003 was the first year that such a plan had been prepared by the Municipality of Calvin. It has been reviewed and updated since then on a regular basis. This 2014 – 2019 Plan will describe measures that the Municipality will take during the term of the Plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and the services of the Municipality, including the staff and the community at large.

The Municipality of Calvin has committed itself to identify barriers to the actual physical premises as well as access to information by those who may be hearing or visually impaired. The Municipality will strive to continuously improve these areas.

The most significant barriers we have recognized for the 2014 – 2019 period are that the Municipal Community Centre is not fully wheelchair accessible and, that the municipality is lacking in the technology that would allow hearing and visually impaired people to access current information. Over the next several years, the Municipality of Calvin recommends focusing on these barriers which deny access to the Community Centre and current information on a day-to-day basis.

The 2014 – 2019 Accessibility Plan will come into effect on January 1, 2014 and remain in effect until January 1, 2019.