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**City Of North Bay**

**Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC)**

**2015 Annual Report**

**a) Background**

This report reflects activities undertaken by the North Bay Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee during 2015 and plans for 2016.

**b) Summary of Activities – Year 2015**

**a) Committee Membership – 2015**

Nora Long (Chair)  
Emma Langdon (Vice-Chair)  
Denise Alkins  
Adam Miller  
Sharon Moseley-Williams  
Robert Nielsen  
Suzanne Nielsen  
Barbra Smith  
Councillor Anthony (City Council Representative)

Staff:

Kathleen Fralic (Secretary-Treasurer)  
Remi Renaud (City Transit Representative)

**b) Meetings of the Committee**

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee met ten (10) times in 2015. Meetings generally take place the first Thursday of every month, at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

**c) Guest Speakers**

MAAC meetings are regularly attended by City Staff. This allows Staff to receive important feedback regarding the accessibility of existing and proposed policies, programs, services, facilities and infrastructure. It is also an opportunity for MAAC members to gain a greater understanding of the internal processes at City Hall.

Guest speakers in 2015 included Beverley Hillier (Manager, Planning Services), who introduced the Committee to their roles and responsibilities, and Luc Lirette (Transit Supervisor and Operator Trainer), who presented the changes to the transit system. Joanna Wilson, Elections Canada, also attended a meeting to consult the Committee about accessible voting for the 2015 Federal Election.

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#### **d) Activities**

City Staff consulted with MAAC throughout 2015. Some specific examples of projects that MAAC provided comments on include:

- The new North Bay Transit system;
- Waterfront accessibility;
- Accessible picnic tables; and
- Sidewalk fracture cracks.

In addition, on April 13, 2015 MAAC members were given the opportunity to tour Memorial Gardens. The Committee provided feedback and suggestions regarding the accessibility of the building.

MAAC also provided letters of support to accompany funding applications for two City projects. These included the creation of the Age Friendly Coordinating Committee of North Bay and the completion of entranceway accessibility upgrades at the Aquatic Centre. MAAC now participates on the Age Friendly Coordinating Committee of North Bay with Nora Long representing MAAC at AFCC meetings.

Finally, MAAC undertook a comprehensive review of the Committee's Terms of Reference to guide their activities over this term.

#### **e) Awareness Initiatives**

MAAC undertook and participated in a number of awareness initiatives throughout 2015. In particular, MAAC participated at the AODA's local 10th Anniversary Celebration on May 20, 2015. This event showcased accessibility success stories from throughout the region. MAAC gave a presentation with the Capitol Centre which outlined and celebrated the impressive accessibility upgrades that have taken place at that facility.

This year, MAAC also partnered with the DNSSAB Internal Accessibility Committee, the Disability Employment Opportunities Centre and the AODA to host an Accessibility Event on October 6, 2015. This event included booths operated by 17 service providers in the community, a tour of the transit system's accessibility features and presentations by the AODA and local residents.

Finally, Mayor McDonald formally proclaimed May 31st to June 6th to be Accessibility Awareness Week in North Bay and MAAC raised awareness via social media.

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**f) Outstanding Concerns**

Throughout the year, the Committee identified snow removal, particularly around bus stops and accessible parking spaces, as a major concern. During the winter if snow is cleared and deposited in areas surrounding accessible parking spots, it can severely limit the amount of space available for members of the community with mobility impairments to enter and exit vehicles. Snow build up at bus stops can also act as a barrier for members of the community to access the City's fully accessible transit system.

To address this concern, MAAC has established a Snow Removal Subcommittee who have identified areas of concern, reviewed the City's existing snow removal policies, researched policies in other communities and is developing recommendations. The Committee will continue to work with Staff and final recommendations will be presented in the near future.

**g) Communication with City's Internal Accessibility Committee**

Remi Renaud provided the MAAC with updates from the City's Internal Accessibility Committee. This allowed the Committee to learn of progress made to increase accessibility within the City.

**h) 2016 Work Program**

The Committee and staff are preparing a formal work program for 2016. This program may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Inform Council of Provincial Standards and Legislation, as they become available.
2. Continue to increase community awareness of accessibility issues.
3. Review and comment on policies, programs, services and new and existing municipal facilities and infrastructure.
4. Host guest speakers from various municipal departments and outside agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

**Original Signature on File**

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Nora Long  
Chair, North Bay Municipal Accessibility  
Advisory Committee