

## **SCHEDULE 'A'**

### **City Of North Bay**

#### **Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC)**

#### **2019 Annual Report**

##### **a) Background**

This report reflects activities undertaken by the North Bay Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC) during 2019.

##### **b) Summary of Activities – Year 2019**

###### **a) Committee Membership – 2019**

Brian Bibeault (Chair)  
Penny Leclair (Vice-Chair)  
Sharyn Emond  
Robert Nielsen  
Suzanne Nielsen  
Barbra Smith  
Barb Bryant  
Linda Thomas-Ouellette  
Councillor Robertson (City Council Representative)

###### **Staff:**

Adam Curran Secretary-Treasurer  
Luc Lurette (City Transit Representative)

###### **b) Meetings of the Committee**

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee met twelve (12) times in 2019. Meetings generally take place the first Thursday of every month, at 12 p.m. at City Hall.

###### **c) Municipal Projects**

MAAC meetings are regularly attended by City Staff. This allows Staff to receive feedback from the Committee 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 municipal processes and projects.

Municipal Staff attended MAAC meetings to explain and detail upcoming Municipal projects. It is a requirement under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005) (AODA) that

Municipal infrastructure projects are presented to MAAC for review and comments.

In 2019, MAAC heard from David Schroeder with regards to access to water and the location of accessible picnic tables. Beverley Hillier and David also provided information on a snow removal pilot project within the Downtown Area for 2020.

David Jackowski, provided information on the new park buildings being built at Armstrong Park and Amelia Park which are barrier free. At this stage they are not including adult change tables because they are unaware if there is a demand for them.

Remi Renaud and Lucy Dubois attended a MAAC meeting to answer questions from MAAC in regards to the PARA Bus service. MAAC Chair and Vice Chair at a later date met with John Severino, Drew Poeta and Luc Lurette to further discuss the PARA Bus.

Para Bus was the number one priority of MAAC and since the meetings with City Staff they have formed an Ad Hoc Committee to further discuss the Para Bus, with regards to eligibility, appeals and the process to get accepted on the Para Bus.

Transit Staff have agreed to sit on the Committee and the Committee has had one meeting to date.

#### **d) Activities**

MAAC continued its participation as a member of the Age Friendly Coordinating Committee of North Bay (AFCC) with Sharyn Emond representing MAAC at AFCC meetings.

Some MAAC members listened in to workshops put on by the Province with regards to accessible activities. Adam Curran MAAC's Secretary Treasurer made a presentation on one of the webinars with regards to the Access to the Water, Ramp Project and other City initiatives.

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

MAAC participated during Accessibility Awareness week. Mayor McDonald tweeted out an awareness message every day during the accessibility awareness week.

MAAC also organized a flag raising in support of Deaf Blind awareness week and awareness of our traditional transit fleet. Senior Staff members and the Mayor and members of Council experienced loading the bus with a blind fold on or in a wheelchair. The idea was to

demonstrate how advanced our regular transit fleet are and the accessible components in the fleet.

#### **f) 2019 Work Program**

MAAC prepared a list of priorities early on of their term. The priorities were then ranked in order of importance to the Committee.

The list of priorities were:

1. Para Bus
2. Snow Removal
3. Housing
4. Access to Water
5. Website
6. Picnic Tables

**Para Bus-** MAAC has some concerns with the current PARA Bus eligibility requirements and the lack of information on the City's website with regards to eligibility and appealing processes. MAAC has met with City Staff and relayed some of these concerns. City Staff has agreed to look into the concerns and have agreed to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee.

**Snow Removal-** MAAC presented their concerns to City Staff. City Staff have agreed to make improvements and try a pilot project in the Downtown Area to help with snow removal.

**Housing-** MAAC has decided that this is a Provincial issue and does not fall within its mandate.

**Access to Water-** A mat to the water is something that MAAC has been requesting for over five (5) years. Council included this in the 2019 budget and the mat was installed in the summer of 2019.

**Website-** MAAC is trying to provide information on the City's website to show all of our accessible facilities. MAAC would like to meet with a staff member who is working on the new website to ensure it is fully accessible.

**Picnic Tables-** Park staff continues to order and install new accessible picnic tables. MAAC would like to include the locations of the Picnic Tables on the City's Website.

#### **2020-**

MAAC will continue to work on the 2019 priorities in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Brian Bibeault**  
Chair, North Bay Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee