

## City seeking public input for Accessibility Plan update

**Oct. 9, 2020** — As the City continues its efforts towards greater inclusivity, it is looking to residents for their input on its next Accessibility Plan.

Specifically, the City is inviting residents to weigh in via an online survey that will help guide the development of the 2021-2025 Accessibility Plan, the document that will act as roadmap for continuing accessibility efforts.

The City remains committed to developing, implementing, maintaining, and enhancing accessibility by providing integrated services and equitable opportunities while reflecting the principles of dignity and independence.

Accessibility planning is reflected in all levels of the City, across the areas of communications and information; customer service; built environments and physical spaces; and employment standards and training.

“We want to reflect accessibility in everything we do, it only strengthens us as an organization,” said City Director of Corporate Support Services Jeanette Pillitteri, adding, “we want to go above and beyond what is required of us, and in planning for that we want to hear from the diverse voices that make up our community.”

The move to develop a new plan comes as the City wraps up a host of accessibility related efforts under its outgoing Accessibility Plan.

In 2019 the City made numerous investments in accessibility including:

- Accessibility upgrades at about 20 transit stops
- Installation of eight accessible bus shelters and five benches
- Expanded paratransit service, including the purchase of a new paratransit vehicle
- New accessible / inclusive play features, and accessibility upgrades at the Douglas Park and Eastport Park playgrounds
- Barrier-free spray features at the new Bogart Street Splash Pad
- Installation of a universal washroom at Russell Avenue Community Centre
- Finalization of a Museum Interpretive Plan prioritizing inclusivity and accessibility

“We’ve made great strides in accessibility, and we want to go further, it’s the next plan, built on public input, that will drive our efforts in the years to come,” said Pillitteri.

Residents can visit [engagest.ca/AccessibilityPlan](http://engagest.ca/AccessibilityPlan) and complete the survey to provide their input before 4 p.m. on Oct. 30.

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