

Annual Accessibility Status Report 2023

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout has established a multi-year accessibility plan to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility and to meet requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and the Integrated Accessibility Standards.

This Annual Status Report details the required annual update for 2023 on the progress of measures taken to improve accessibility. The purpose of this report is track our organization's progress and make the public aware of our initiatives.

This report is available online at https://www.siouxlookout.ca/en/town-hall/accessibility.aspx

To request an alternate format of this annual status report, please contact:

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The Municipality of Sioux Lookout's accessibility plan is guided by the following commitment statement:

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is committed to ensuring equal access and participation for people with disabilities. We are committed to treating people with disabilities in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and we are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner. We will do so by removing and preventing barriers to accessibility and meeting our accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and Ontario's accessibility laws.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is committed to:

Ensuring the participation of people with disabilities in the identification and review of barriers;

Considering recommendations from people with disabilities and the public with respect to accessibility of municipal buildings, facilities, operations, and services; and

Meeting the standards of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), thereby removing barriers and creating a municipality where every person who lives or visits can participate fully.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout continues to show their commitment to creating a barrier free community for residents, businesses, and tourists by developing and implementing policies, procedures, and practices to provide service is persons with disabilities.

Accessibility planning will help ensure that municipal services, policies, procedures, and practices meet the needs of everyone with a disability, including residents, visitors, tourists, and staff.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout's accessibility accomplishments for 2023 included the following:

Customer Service

Training continued to ensure all staff are aware of the accessibility accommodation requirements under the AODA.

Information and Communication

New documents are created in more accessible formats, including larger font with more optical character recognition in digital formats.

Documents are available in accessible formats upon request.

Feedback mechanisms have been maintained to provide opportunities for resident consultation regarding accessibility and other community input.

Feedback is accepted using the following platforms:

Email, telephone, online via the Sioux Lookout Access Portal, hardcopy, fax, and in-person

Employment

Personnel Policies were reviewed and updated.

Individual accommodation plans and return to work plans were implemented and maintained, as requested.

Applicants were informed about the availability of accessibility accommodations during the recruitment process.

Design of Public Spaces

Zoning by-law addresses all aspects of accessibility in the planning process.

Newly constructed or renovated areas meet or exceed accessibility requirements.

Accessible areas are inspected and maintained on a routine basis.

Transportation

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout operates fixed route and on-demand transit service "Hub Transit" within the boundaries of Sioux Lookout. Accessible service is provided along all regularly scheduled routes. Service is monitored regularly to ensure compliance.

Availability of the Plan and Status Report

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout's Multi-year plan and Annual Accessibility Status report can be accessed through the municipal website at: www.siouxlookout.ca

For more information, contact the Clerk's Department: 807-737-2700

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