

**Terms of Reference**  
**Accessibility Community Advisory Committee**

**Role**

The role of a Community Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations, advice and information to the Municipal Council on those specialized matters which relate to the purpose of the Community Advisory Committee.

The establishment and role of the Accessibility Community Advisory Committee is mandated by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, SO 2005, c 11.

**Definitions (AODA 2005)**

“the organizations” refers to:

- the City of London and may refer to the City's Agencies, Boards and Commissions, to be determined subject to the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA 2001) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA 2005) and its regulations. It is intended that the Accessibility Community Advisory Committee shall advise comprehensively upon issues for a barrier-free London which may entail forwarding recommendations to the City's Agencies, Boards and Commissions and/or other outside organizations;

“barrier” means:

- anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of their disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communication barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice (“obstacle”);

“disability” means:

- any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;
- a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;
- a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;
- a mental disorder; or
- an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*; (“handicap”).

**Mandate**

The Accessibility Community Advisory Committee (ACAC) shall advise and assist “the organizations” in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free London for citizens of all abilities (universal accessibility). This aim shall be achieved through the review of municipal policies, programs and services, which may include the development of means by which an awareness and understanding of matters of concern can be brought forward and the identification, removal and prevention of barriers faced by persons with disabilities, and any other functions prescribed under the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA 2001), *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA 2005) and regulations.

The Accessibility Community Advisory Committee reports to Municipal Council, through the Community and Protective Services Committee. The Accessibility Community Advisory Committee is responsible for the following:

### **Duties Required by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA 2005)**

- (a) participating in the development and/or refinement of the City of London's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which outlines the City of London's strategy to prevent and remove barriers for persons with disabilities;
- (b) advising the City of London on the implementation and effectiveness of the City's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan to ensure that it addresses the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in the City of London's by-laws, and all its policies, programs, practices and services;
- (c) selecting and reviewing in a timely manner the site plans and drawings for new development, described in section 41 of the *Planning Act*;
- (d) reviewing and monitoring existing and proposed procurement policies of the City of London for the purpose of providing advice with respect to the accessibility for persons with disabilities to the goods or services being procured;
- (e) reviewing access for persons with disabilities to buildings, structures and premises (or parts thereof) that the City purchases, constructs, significantly renovates, leases, or funds for compliance with the City of London's Accessibility Design Standards (FADS);
- (f) Consulting on specific matters as prescribed under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA 2005)

### **Other Duties**

- (g) advising "the organizations" on issues and concerns (barriers) faced by persons with disabilities and the means by which "the organizations" may work towards the elimination of these barriers;
- (h) annually reviewing and recommending changes to The City of London's Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) and other applicable and related policies including, but not limited to, sidewalk design, traffic signalization, public works etc.;
- (i) supporting, encouraging and being an ongoing resource to "the organizations", individuals, agencies and the business community by educating and building community awareness about measures (such as the availability of employment, leisure and educational choices) for improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities, through the removal of physical barriers, incorporation of universal design standards, and education to overcome attitudinal barriers to make London an accessible, livable City for all people.

### **Composition**

#### Voting Members

A maximum of fifteen members consisting of:

- a majority of the members (minimum 8) shall be persons with disabilities as required under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA 2005). The Committee members shall be representative of gender, ethnicity and diverse types of disabilities wherever possible; and
  - a maximum of seven additional members, as follows:
    - o one member (parent) representing children with disabilities; and
    - o six members-at-large, interested in issues related to persons with disabilities
- \* it being noted that these additional members may also have a disability.

#### Non-Voting Resource Group

Non-Voting and Resource members may be engaged as the committee deems necessary.

#### Staff Resources

Staff resources will be allocated as required; however the specific liaison shall be the Accessibility Specialist (AODA), or designate.

### Sub-committees and Working Groups

The Community Advisory Committee may form sub-committees and working groups as may be necessary to address specific issues; it being noted that the City Clerk's office does not provide resources or support to these groups. These sub-committees and working groups shall draw upon members from the Community Advisory Committee as well as outside resource members as deemed necessary. The Chair of a sub-committee and/or working group shall be a voting member of the Community Advisory Committee.

### **Term of Office**

Appointments to Community Advisory Committees shall be determined by the Municipal Council.

### **Conduct**

The conduct of Community Advisory Committee members shall be in keeping with Council Policy and the Respectful Workplace Policy.

### **Meetings**

Meetings shall be once monthly at a date and time set by the City Clerk in consultation with the Community Advisory Committee. Length of meetings shall vary depending on the agenda. Meetings of working groups that have been formed by the Community Advisory Committee may meet at any time and at any location and are in addition to the regular meetings of the Community Advisory Committee.