



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR Accessibility Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Chrystal Remme, Councillor, District 3

Meeting Date: September 24, 2026

Meeting Location: Council Chambers

SUMMARY/UPDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met on September 24. At the beginning of the meeting, Chair Michel Bourgeois recognized the recent passing of committee member Roseanna Boyd and the dedication she brought to the Committee and to accessibility in our community.

A large part of our meeting was spent reviewing the Committee's work plan and looking at what has been completed, what is underway, and what still needs attention. There has been a lot of progress, but the discussion also raised some good questions about how we keep track of the things that aren't finished and make sure they don't get lost along the way. I suggested bringing the work plan back to each meeting so we can regularly check our progress, identify what still needs to be done, and look at whether additional resources are needed to get some of those things completed.

One of my favourite updates from the meeting came from New Boundaries. We heard that the additional ramps and seating at the Exhibition meant they were able to participate at about 80% this year, compared with approximately 10% last year. I think that's a pretty powerful example of the difference accessibility improvements can make.

We also had an important discussion about accessibility at municipal facilities and events. A concern was raised about an accessibility issue during Rock the Rink at the Sports Complex and the difficulty of getting it addressed while the event was happening. That led to a much bigger conversation about what happens when accessibility concerns come up at our facilities or during events, who is responsible for dealing with them, and how we make sure they are followed through.

I think this is an area where we can do better. We shouldn't necessarily need to create entirely new processes. There may be opportunities to build accessibility into the inspections, checklists and procedures we already use, along with making sure staff have the training they need and that there is a clear person to contact when an issue comes up. The Committee also talked

about having a way for people to report accessibility concerns once the accessibility page is available on the municipal website.

The Committee also revisited the self-directed accessibility guide we've been working on. After further discussion, we're now looking at an educational video rather than a physical checklist. There is still some work to do around what that will look like, and we'll bring it back for further discussion at an upcoming meeting.

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 29.

ACTION ITEMS:

None at this time.