

## Background

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The province passed the *Accessibility for Ontarians Act in 2005 (AODA)*. This legislation built on the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)* with the development, implementation and enforcement of five standards: customer service, employment, information and communication, transportation, and design of public spaces. The goal of the AODA, is to make Ontario completely accessible via comprehensive implementation of the five standards by 2025. Currently, municipalities are required to adhere to both the ODA & AODA.

*Ontario Regulation 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standard* was approved on June 3, 2011 and amended on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to include *Ontario Regulation 413/12*.

The AODA requires that each municipality prepare and publish a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Municipalities with populations over 10,000 are also required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to provide input into such plans.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Oxford County Council approved, as item #b-4 2002-48, the establishment of an Accessibility Advisory Committee as required by ODA/AODA. .

## Purpose / Mandate

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- To provide input to develop an Multi-Year Accessibility Plan which identifies current barriers to be addressed and describes actions to be taken to measure and remove barriers;
- Monitor Federal and Provincial government directives and regulations;
- Keep Council and staff informed;
- Liaise with other lower-tier municipalities in Oxford County;
- Report to Council on the effectiveness of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan;
- Conduct research on accessibility issues;
- Prioritize the disability issues;
- Develop and conduct Education Awareness programs/events

## Responsibilities

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The Oxford County Accessibility Advisory Committee responsibilities include the provision of a forum for persons with disabilities to raise issues, concerns and to provide advice & guidance to Oxford County Council on matters relates to policies, practices & programs in the County.

The three main activities of the Oxford County Accessibility Advisory Committee are:

- Advising municipal council as it relates to the AODA and the implementation of the accessibility standards and the preparation of the accessibility reports
- Reviewing site plans and drawings described in section #41 of the Planning Act
- Performing all other functions that are specified in regulation

## Membership

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Six (6) members of the public (the majority of whom shall be persons with disability) will be appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

~~In addition to the above, the Accessibility Advisory Committee will appoint one (1) County Councillor.~~

A person appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years old;
- A resident of Oxford County; and
- Not a full-time employee of the County of Oxford

## Essential Competencies & Qualifications

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- Commitment to equitable access, diversity and inclusiveness;
- Ability to seek and listen to input from all stakeholders and approach people and problems with an open mind;
- Ability to actively participate in discussion and deliberation and to attain positive outcomes;
- Leadership experience;
- Time and energy to devote to the work of the Board / Committee;
- A strong understanding of the needs and concerns of a broad spectrum of people with disabilities and seniors gained through personal or professional experience
- Availability to participate in meetings during business hours

## Term

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The term of the committee is 4 years ending with the Term of Council (2023-2026)

Replacement members to be approved by County Council.

## Time Commitment

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The Oxford County Accessibility Advisory Committee meets bi-monthly and meetings will be in – person, electronic or a combination of the two.

## Rules of Procedure

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The Committee shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from among their members for the purpose of chairing meetings and overseeing the operation of the Committee.

Quorum for the Committee shall comprise of a majority of the Committee members, including the Chair/Vice Chair.

Meetings shall be held at least six times per year;

Meetings shall be open to the public;

Oxford service organizations such as Home & Community Care Support Services, South West, CNIB, MS Society, shall be made aware of the meeting dates through notices posted on the web or other means

## Compensation and Expenses

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Committee members will receive remuneration as per the policies of the County of Oxford, as amended from time to time and shall be reimbursed by the County for County business related expenses incurred, payable in accordance with Employee Expense Policy No. 6.02.

Half-day meeting or less	Full-day meeting
\$100	\$175
<b>Compensation applies to Lay Member Appointees only</b>	

## Education

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Education learning opportunities available by way of accessible conferences, forums, webinars, & in-person meetings.

## Committee Support

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Assistance is provided by County Staff. Additional County resources will be appointed to the Oxford County Accessibility Advisory Committee as required.

## Achievements / Accomplishments 2018-2022

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The 2018-2022 Accessibility Advisory Term Report provides an update on the activities achievements and accomplishments of the AAC.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee provided feedback on South-West Oxford Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

- Accessibility Advisory Committee provided feedback regarding the accessible parking spaces at Drumbo, Plattsville & Otterville. As a result of feedback to the County's parking by-law was approved by County Council on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Accessibility Advisory Committee partnered with RE/MAX Realty to promote accessible trick or treat signage program. A total of 100 signs distributed within Oxford County.
- Attended Joint AAC meeting held in Woodstock on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Accessibility Advisory Committee toured the Woodstock Art Gallery October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Attended Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- The Oxford County Advisory Committee toured South-West Oxford Township community & recreation spaces on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and forwarded recommendations to improve Accessibility
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee is committed to encouraging the use of the Facility Design Standards by area municipalities and private developers within Oxford County
- Accessibility Advisory Committee reviewed site plan for Oxford County Early ON building at 75 Graham Street
- Attended Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) virtually on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Accessibility Advisory Committee continues to reach out to the lower tier municipalities to promote an opportunity to expand the accessible mapping project in their community.
- Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with guest speakers Assistant Deputy Minister Mary Bartolomucci, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Division, Timothy Higgins, Accessibility Coordinator, City of Pickering & Rebecca Smith, Manager of Housing Development
- Accessibility Advisory Committee provided feedback to Zorra Township on their 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

## **Additional Information**

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*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act  
Ontarians with Disabilities Act  
Ontario Human Rights Code  
Oxford County Facility Design Standards (FADS)  
Accessibility Standards for Customer Service – Oxford County*