

Town of Plympton-Wyoming

ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

September, 2003

Approved by Motion #19
Regular Council Meeting, October 8, 2003

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the municipality. To this end, the ODA mandates that each municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

This is the first year plan (2003) prepared by the Administrator-Clerk of the Municipality of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming. The report describes (1) the measures that Plympton-Wyoming has taken in the past, and (2) the measures that the municipality will take during the next current year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use facilities and services of the Municipality, including staff and other members of the municipality.

This year, Plympton-Wyoming committed itself to the continual improvement of access to municipal premises, facilities, and services for residents and staff with disabilities.

Aim

This report describes (1) the measures that the Municipality of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming has taken in the past, and (2) the measures that the Municipality will take during the next current year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Municipality, including staff and other members of the municipality.

Objectives

This report:

1. Describes the process by which the Municipality of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. Reviews earlier efforts to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Lists the facilities, policies, programs, practices, and services that the Municipality will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describes the measures the Municipality will take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
5. Describe how the Municipality will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Description of the Municipality of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming

The Municipality of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming is a newly restructured municipality (2001) comprised of the former municipalities of the Village of Wyoming and the Township of Plympton. The new municipality has a population of 7,200 residents.

The Municipality is responsible for the provision of a wide range of municipal services throughout the municipality and as a result, has a wide range of public facilities under its management and control including one (1) community centre, three (3) libraries, numerous parks and playgrounds, one (1) Municipal Office, two (2) fire halls, and two (2) Public Works depots.

Commitment to Accessibility Planning

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming is committed to accessibility by:

- The continual improvement of access to municipal premises, facilities, and services for the public, its ratepayers and staff with disabilities.
- The participation of people with disabilities in the development and review of its annual access plans.
- The provision of quality services to all ratepayers and members of the community with disabilities.

Barrier-Removal Initiatives

Various municipal projects have been developed which aid in creating a barrier-free community.

1. **MUNICIPAL WEB SITE**
In 2003, the Town developed a municipal web site which allows residents to access information about the Town Council meetings, Committee structures, and various other activities in the community.
2. **MUNICIPAL BANKING OPTIONS**
Currently, telebanking and internet payments are available for taxes, water or tile loan payments to the Town.
3. **SIDEWALKS**
Any new sidewalk construction will accommodate wheelchair accessibility. An annual inspection of all municipal sidewalks identifies maintenance and replacement needs, and

assists with prioritizing sidewalk projects for budget review.

4. PARKING REGULATIONS

Identified parking spots are available specifically at Town facilities that are within close proximity to buildings.

5. MUNICIPAL OFFICE

The Plympton-Wyoming Municipal Office has been constructed to meet compliance with the Town's Accessibility Guidelines.

6. LIBRARY FACILITY

Tenders have been called for the renovation of the former Wyoming Fire Hall to relocate the Wyoming Library, which is presently not wheelchair-accessible. The new facility will be wheelchair-accessible, and will provide accessible washrooms as well.

Barrier Identification Methodologies

Barrier identification methods were examined in the following way:

Staff	Staff reviewed the properties and facilities to evaluate accessibility and barriers at each location.
Operational Review	Staff visited various sites to check each facilities' accessibility.

Barriers Identified

Buildings and facilities owned by the Town were identified to still have some barriers. An inventory and plan will be prepared after public consultation to prioritize needs.

Barriers that will be addressed in 2004

The informal site audit identified the most significant barriers in the Town-owned facilities that need to be addressed.

- Review election polling places to ensure accessibility
- Continue development of the Town website
- Prepare a facility inventory & list of recommended needs
- Publish notice of development of plan outlining consultation process

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming is committed to providing a barrier-free community. Upon the immediate awareness to barriers in the community, the matter will be brought to the attention of Council to address the problem and secure an amicable solution or remedy to the situation.

Summary

Once the initial plan is in place, plans in the following years will focus on the targets achieved and work completed.

Once existing barriers have been eliminated and preventative measures such as accessibility standards and guidelines have been implemented, the annual accessibility plans will address the ongoing suitability of the guidelines, how they are used and identify exceptional impacts on these plans.

A notice will be placed in the local newspapers explaining the plan and public comments will be welcomed and addressed. Copies of the plan will be available to the public at the Municipal Office.

