

**DATE:** December 15, 2023

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Andy Beesley, Director, Civic Facilities & Events

**SUBJECT:** City of Prince George 2023 – 2026 Accessibility Work Plan

**ATTACHMENT(S):** City of Prince George 2023 – 2026 Accessibility Work Plan

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated December 15, 2023, from the Director of Civic Facilities & Events titled “City of Prince George 2023 – 2026 Accessibility Work Plan.”

**PURPOSE:**

For Council’s information.

**DISCUSSION:**

In June 2021, the Province of British Columbia established the legal framework to identify, remove and prevent barriers to the full and equal participation of people with disabilities in B.C. The Accessible British Columbia Act is law and municipalities, among other prescribed organizations must meet its requirements. The City of Prince George is required to:

1. Establish an Accessibility Committee to assist in identifying and advise on how to remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.
2. Create an Accessibility Plan that considers the Accessible BC Principles and is updated at least once every three years.
3. Create a tool to receive public feedback on the accessibility plan and barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.

In March and December 2023, Council approved amendments to the terms of reference for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion to align that committee’s mandate with the Accessible British Columbia Act legislation.

Throughout 2023, Administration has worked to meet the requirements of this legislation including the completion of an environmental scan which serves as the foundation of the City’s 2023 – 2026 Accessibility Work Plan and informed the inventory of current and future City actions related to accessibility. As set out in the 2023 – 2026 Accessibility Work Plan, attached to this report, eight focus areas sets the framework for the plan in alignment with the provincial legislation with a range of actions identified to guide the City over the next three years.

Finally, Administration has developed a process through which feedback will be received in-person, via email or telephone regarding the Accessibility Work Plan and identified barriers when interacting with the Organization. The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion will review this feedback on an ongoing basis to ensure the Accessibility Plan is updated and that ongoing progress is achieved.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The 2023 – 2026 Accessibility Work Plan is provided for Council's information.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Andy Beesley, Director, Civic Facilities & Events

PREPARED BY: Sarah Brown, Supervisor Civic Initiatives & Partnerships

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/01/08