

Accessibility Report - November 2004

**CORPORATION
OF THE
TOWN OF RAINY RIVER**



November 2004
Accessibility Plan Review

Submitted to:
Mayor and Council
Town of Rainy River

Submitted by:
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REPORT

The 2003 Accessibility Plan, as presented to Council, has been reviewed. The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River remains committed to accessibility issues and will continue to progress towards complete accessibility of all municipal facilities. The Accessibility Plan for the Town of Rainy River was reviewed on Monday, October 4, 2004. Items of concern were addressed as follows:

Municipal Office

Various accessibility issues have been addressed by the Town Council in regards to the Municipal Office Building. The results are as follows:

As of July 2004 improvements were made for easier access to the main office entrance and any uneven deck planking was repaired. Work orders have also been issued for the designation and posting of handicapped parking spaces.

It was noted that doorways at the Municipal Office building were too narrow and the thresholds too high to allow for proper access. It was also noted that the main door was difficult to open. To improve accessibility in this regard, lever-type door handles have been installed. CBO Frank Berg has been instructed to look into the accessibility issues regarding the public washrooms. The light switches, sinks, mirrors and toilettes are all too high according to accessibility standards. The Council is currently working towards the rectification and completion of these accessibility issues.

It had also been noted that the legibility of printing on the tax bills for sight impaired persons was also an issue of concern. However, as the content of tax bills is legislated by the Province, the Council is working towards the development of a format which will follow the provincial requirements and be in compliance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Rainy River Activity Depot

Various accessibility concerns have been identified at the Rainy River Activity Depot. The Council is currently working towards solutions to these problems as outlined below:

Hand rails will need to be installed along the ramp at the Activity Depot. Doorway thresholds have been identified as being too high and the doors difficult to open.

Handicap parking spaces have been designated and signs posted at the Activity Depot parking lot.

As washroom facilities for the Activity Depot are shared with the Municipal Office, accessibility issues (such as mirrors, sinks, switches, etc...) will be dealt with as indicated for the Municipal Office.

Heritage Square

The Museum facility is accessible only by stairs and no washroom facilities are available on site. Special plans will need to be formulated for the resolution of these problems as this facility is located in a historical railroad car.

Farmer's Market

No barriers have been identified in regards to this facility as it stands at ground level.

Health Centre

Requests have been made to update the clinic washroom facilities for handicap accessibility and work has already commenced for improvements. It has been noted that the doors at the Health Centre are heavy and difficult to open. The Council has determined that these accessibility issues should be given high priority and are working towards rectification. Price quotes have already been obtained by the Municipal Administrator in regards to automatic door openers.

The lower level of the Health Centre is currently accessible only by stairway. Correction of this problem would require the installation of an elevator. Cost estimates and funding are being sought for this project.

Curling Rink

The accessibility ramp for the Curling Club is currently lacking a handrail and the door is heavy and difficult to open. Accessibility to the second floor is also limited to the stairway and the washroom facilities do not meet with ODA standards. The Council and Curling Club Committee will work in conjunction in order to rectify these accessibility issues.

Recreation Centre

It has been determined that the washroom facilities at the Recreation Centre do not meet accessibility standards. The ramp leading to the ice surface will also require adjustment as it does not align with the ice surface. The Council and Recreation Board will work in conjunction to rectify these issues.

Public Works Garage

Various accessibility issues have been identified at the Public Works Garage. The Council is currently working towards the designation and posting of handicap parking spaces. Doorways at the garage currently meet with the required widths; however, handle heights will need to be adjusted.

The bathroom facilities at the garage will also require some adjustments (door widths, handle styles and light switch, sink, soap, mirror, towel and toilet paper dispenser heights). The Council

is progressing towards the rectification of these issues. Accommodations will also need to be made regarding grab bars and easier access to toilet flushing controls.

Fire Hall

Renovations have already been made to the washroom facilities and accessibility issues in this regard have been resolved. No further action will be taken in 2005.

Water Treatment Plant

The Water Treatment Plant facility does not meet any of the requirements under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Budget restraints are a concern for compliance in this regard, however, accessibility issues will be rectified according to budget allowances.

Waterfront Service Building

Identified accessibility issues for this facility include the designation and posting of handicap parking spaces and adjustments to door handles, light switches, sinks, mirrors, soap and towel, toilet paper and cup dispensers.

Waterfront Washroom/Shower Facility

Various accessibility issues have been identified in relation to this facility. Ramps for exterior access will need to be installed and the interior/exterior paths of travel altered to meet requirements. Designations will also need to be made for handicap parking spaces.

Adjustments will need to be made to the washroom interiors as well. Stall doors do not meet with width regulations, door handles need to be replaced by a lever type handle, the light switch, sink, mirror, soap and towel and toilet paper dispensers heights will all need to be adjusted. A cup dispenser will also need to be installed and the proper handicap signage posted.

Community Wide

The Council has determined that curb cutting should be a high priority for 2005; however, inquiries will need to be made as to whether this project would be covered under the current budget.

Due to concerns expressed by the public regarding poor sidewalk conditions, the Council has asked the Public Works Foreman to develop a plan for working towards compliance in this regard.

**** The Council is aware of the above noted deficiencies, as per the standards set out by the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and plans for solutions have been formulated according to budgetary allowances and time restraints.***