

# Staff Report to Council



**Report From:** Alex Wolfe, Clerk  
Stacey Jeffery, Community Relations Manager

**Meeting Date:** December 2 2024

**Report:** CL- 24-2024  
Annual Accessibility Update

## Recommendation

**That South Huron Council receives Staff Report CL24-2024 – Annual Accessibility Update.**

## Report Overview

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	For Information
<b>Council Priority Alignment</b>	Planning For and Managing Sustainable Growth  Community Safety and Well-Being
<b>Attachment(s) to Report</b>	2024 South Huron Accessibility Update and Progress  Updated “Non-Accessible” Document Listing for Southhuron.ca  2025 Annual Accessibility Plan (HCAAC)  Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (HCAAC 2024-2025)

## Report Highlights

- As required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), section 4(1) of O. Reg. 191/11 municipalities shall establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan that outlines an organization’s strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its

requirements under the Act and regulations. Under the legislation, municipalities shall prepare annual status reports on the progress measures taken to implement the multi-year accessibility plan.

- Staff are providing an annual update to Council summarizing accessibility progress and proposed future undertakings throughout the Corporation.
- Attachments to the report include an update on South Huron's Accessibility progress and the 2025 Annual Accessibility Plan of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee

## **Context and Background**

Council is provided with a report annually summarizing the progress the Corporation has made in accessibility that year, and outlines projects for the year to come.

### **Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCACC) was established in 2005 with the purpose of assisting the County of Huron and all nine lower tier municipalities in fulfilling their legislative mandates, under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), which requires municipalities to have an established Accessibility Advisory Committee. South Huron participates in the HCACC municipal working group and assists the Committee in identifying issues that need review.

Under the legislation, South Huron meets the requirements to establish a South Huron led Accessibility Advisory Committee, based on the population exceeding 10,000. The legislation provides a Municipality to continue on a joint Accessibility Advisory Committee if the committee was established prior to the legislation coming into force. South Huron qualifies and has remained a member of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### **Joint Accessibility Plan and Annual Huron County Update**

The Joint Accessibility Plan and Multi-year Update is a comprehensive plan outlining accomplishments and goals established by Huron County and each of the member municipalities to meet the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and is attached to this report. The annual report is updated as appendices are received from lower tier municipalities following review and approval of their local Council. South Huron's appendix list will be provided to Huron County for inclusion in the finalized report following Council's receipt of this report.

### **Municipality of South Huron Update**

The Municipality, along with Council's leadership and the assistance of municipal staff work together to understand the broad range of disabilities that exist. Making South Huron accessible is an on-going process and the Municipality works within its resources and priorities to eliminate or identify accessibility barriers in municipal

facilities and amenities. The 2024 Update attached to this report outlines South Huron's specific measures and efforts towards the commitment to accessibility and removing barriers for persons with disabilities moving towards a barrier-free Municipality.

The AODA requires all public sector organizations to file an accessibility compliance report. The last report was filed in 2023, with the next accessibility report deadline for public-sector organizations is December 31, 2025. Compliance with the AODA does not conclude with the submission of the report as the corporation is required to comply with regulations on an ongoing basis.

### **Municipal Website Compliance**

Under section 14 of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), organizations must meet their website requirements, except where meeting the requirement is not practicable. Under this requirement, practicability refers to the organization's ability given all of the circumstances to modify their websites and web content. Organizations are to determine whether it is practicable to do so. Each document needs to be assessed for its level of accessibility and whether or not it can be made accessible through existing software or tools.

In some instances, an organization may determine that it is not practicable to make a document accessible before posting it to its website. If that information is publicly available, it must be made available to a person with a disability, in another format, in a timely manner at no additional cost, should the request be made (per Section 12 of the IASR). The Municipality maintains a running "Not Accessible Document List" in relation to southhuron.ca, a copy of this list is attached to the report for reference.

### **Discussion and Staff Recommendation(s)**

The Municipality submits mandatory compliance reports to the Ministry, as well as completing desk audits by the Ministry to help ensure that the Municipality is meeting AODA regulations.

Beyond the mandatory compliance reporting requirements, South Huron staff actively participate in the HCAAC municipal working group and undertake municipal specific projects annually. This demonstrates the commitment to continuously address barriers and ensure the municipality remains progressive in identifying solutions to accessibility.

Recognizing South Huron's commitment to accessibility, the HCAAC awarded the Municipality of South Huron an Award of Merit (Public Category) for the SHRC renovation project in 2024.

This report is being received for information as a reflective summary of 2024 activities and proposed 2025 projects.

## **Impact Analysis**

There are no financial or legal impacts resulting from the recommendation of this report. The Corporation continues its work in fulfilling its legislative mandates under the AODA.

## **Linkages**

- [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#)
- [Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation \(IASR\)](#)

---

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Alex Wolfe, Clerk**

**Stacey Jeffery, Community Relations Manager**

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CL24-2024 - Annual Accessibility Update.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2024 MOSH Accessibility Progress Update.docx</li><li>- Document List - Not Accessible - updated December 2024.docx</li><li>- 2025 AAP .docx</li><li>- 2024-29 MYAP .docx</li></ul>
Final Approval Date:	Dec 9, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Erin Moore - Dec 9, 2024 - 10:11 AM**

**Rebekah Msuya-Collison - Dec 9, 2024 - 12:12 PM**