

Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) – Strategic Plan Summary 2017-2026

MISSION

To and make recommendations on access issues related to municipal properties, information and services for persons with disabilities. ACA is a resource to City Council and City Administration.

MANDATE

The City of Calgary Advisory Committee on Accessibility is a resource committee reporting to City Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services on issues, needs and services for people with disabilities. The ACA consults with City business units to promote City services and facilities that meet the needs of people with disabilities.

FUNCTIONS

Advisory Committee on Accessibility members address physical, transportation, communication, social and economic access issues that occur in The City of Calgary. They receive community and organization input on issues and Council requests, and they draw on their own experiences of living with a disability.

The ACA's **Access Design Subcommittee** reviews and makes recommendations on issues and plans that relate to universal design for people with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, the review of public and private projects like properties, buildings, barrier-free walkways, parks, playgrounds and pathways.

ACTION PLAN

2015-2018

Community Services & Protective Services-P12:
Establish approaches and practices that welcome and support full participation of vulnerable populations in City activities.

CS&PS 2015-2018 Departmental Outcomes

P12.1: Steward relevant policies and strategies that address the needs of vulnerable populations including Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities and immigrants

P12.2: Advise on social policy implications and provide social research support to strengthen The Corporation's responsiveness to the needs of vulnerable populations

ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

GOAL 1. TO HAVE THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF PUBLIC SPACES BE ACCESSIBLE AND UNIVERSALLY DESIGNED.

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 1.1	ACA will support the implementation of the 2016 Access Design Standards to be used on all City projects by working with the Access Planner in Planning & Development, and create a communication plan that will align with the implementation.
Strategy 1.2	ACA will work closely with the Access Planner in Planning & Development to support City projects from conceptual stage to final completion of City projects and determine a corporate-wide process piece for access reviews.
Strategy 1.3	ACA will continue to provide leadership with NM2015-16 - 'Improving Calgary's Accessibility', through collaboration with Calgary Building Services, Calgary Growth Strategies and Facility Management.
Strategy 1.4	ACA will work with the Building Operations Control Centre on the emergency procedures for persons with disabilities in the Municipal Complex.
Strategy 1.5	ACA will finalize the design for curb cut ramps with and without tactile truncated domes for future installations.
Strategy 1.6	ACA will work with the Seniors Age Friendly Strategy on the creation of an 'Age-Friendly Business Checklist' for Business Revitalization Zones to assist seniors and persons with disabilities to identify businesses that have services and amenities to meet their unique needs. This will allow more independence for people who want to be out in the community..

ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

GOAL 2. TO HAVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BE MORE INCLUSIVE FOR CALGARIANS WITH DISABILITIES.

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 2.1	ACA will continue to participate in the Green Line designs discussions to incorporate the Access Design Standards to ensure persons with disabilities are able to access the new stations.
Strategy 2.2	ACA's representation on the Livery Taxi Advisory Committee (LTAC) will continue as will the ACA member liaison with Livery Transport Services, who represents people with disabilities.
Strategy 2.3	ACA will continue to receive and review all 311 service requests for accessible/audible pedestrian signals.
Strategy 2.4	ACA will work with Roads on the Accessible/Audible Pedestrian Signal (APS) Strategy and evaluate the new model vibrotactile signals that are being installed.
Strategy 2.5	ACA will continue to work with Transportation Planning on the "Step Forward" Pedestrian Strategy that will include barrier-free path of travel, sidewalk hoarding, accessible/audible signals, crosswalk designs and underpass projects.
Strategy 2.6	ACA will continue to collaborate with Calgary Roads, Calgary Transit and Calgary Neighbourhoods on the snow and ice control (SNIC) program that will work towards 700 bus stop locations.
Strategy 2.7	ACA will work with Calgary Roads on increasing the number of accessible parking stalls in the downtown core and collaborate with Calgary Parking Authority on enhancing the provision of information and communication on these stalls in MapApp and on their website.

ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

GOAL 3. TO EDUCATE BUSINESS UNITS AND COUNCIL ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATION TOOLS.

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 3.1	ACA will encourage the provision of accessible tools at engagement sessions, town halls and special events to embed accessible communications work. These may include captioning, sign language, large font, Braille, plain language, narrative descriptions (verbal translations of graphs and pictures).
Strategy 3.2	ACA will continue to support Calgary.ca/accessibility, including the 311 service request for event and meeting accommodation, promoting standard accessibility icons and Report to Calgarians.
Strategy 3.3	ACA will support Councillors and Administration with accommodations at meetings, Town Halls, Councillor Chats and engagement, by providing information on what is required and how to book service providers.
Strategy 3.4	ACA will work closely with the Human Resources on the creation of Accessible Customer Service training materials.
Strategy 3.5	ACA will work with Web Services on the technology of calgary.ca and myCity to create enhanced site access for people with vision loss and cognitive disabilities.

ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

GOAL 4. TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 4.1	ACA will continue to support The Award for Accessibility, as part of the Calgary Awards.
Strategy 4.2	ACA will host an event and present their annual Advocacy, Access Recognition and Ella Anderson Accessible Transportation Awards 3 each year, at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
Strategy 4.3	ACA, through on-going education and awareness, will increase the knowledge and promote change for inclusive communities. This can be done through the use of the Access Design Standards and associated Checklist.
Strategy 4.4	ACA will participate in external training of students and professionals in Calgary about the Access Design Standards and the importance of universal design and their lived disability experience.
Strategy 4.5	ACA will meet annually with City Council to advise them on key work areas and provide knowledge on disability matters.
Strategy 4.6	ACA will be involved in ongoing updates of the Access Design Standards and associated Checklists.
Strategy 4.7	ACA will provide guidance on how The City of Calgary can support the Federal Government Accessibility Legislation and how it will align with the City of Calgary
Strategy 4.8	ACA will work closely with the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy on an Age-Friendly Accessible Business Checklist to develop a program that helps seniors and persons with disabilities identify businesses and organizations with services and amenities that can accommodate their unique needs.

ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

GOAL 5. TO DETERMINE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 5.1	ACA will participate in the Affordable Housing Strategy implementation through engagement with Administration.
Strategy 5.2	ACA will review plans on the City's new affordable housing projects for the inclusion of adaptable and barrier free units.
Strategy 5.3	ACA will work with Administration and Council to advocate for Secondary Suites for persons with disabilities through the Affordable Housing Coordinator in Calgary Growth Strategies.
Strategy 5.4	ACA will work with Administration through the permitting process to sensitize private developers and builders on the need for accessible housing.
Strategy 5.5	ACA will work with Administration on the City Charter process promoting the development of housing that has a zero level entranceway, wider doorways and hallways and a main floor bathroom.
Strategy 5.6	ACA will work with Administration on how to best include the social needs of people with disabilities in the decisions of the Calgary Planning Commission and Corporate Planning Applications Group to increase adaptable units in the development industry.