

## Advisory Committee on Accessibility Strategic Plan Summary 2015-2016

### MISSION

“To provide access recommendations and to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities and advise City Council of the rights and service needs of Calgarians with disabilities.”

### MANDATE

The City of Calgary’s Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) 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

The ACA has two subcommittees:

**The 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.

**The Accessible Transportation Subcommittee** advises in all aspects of transportation functions pertaining to buses, LRTs and taxis including the safety of people with disabilities through audible signals and wheelchair curb cut ramps. This ensures the greatest level of accessibility for persons with physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities.

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.

### 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 create a subcommittee to re-write the 2010 Access Design Standards, based on the 2014 Alberta Building Code.
Strategy 1.2	ACA will ensure the use of the Corporate Access Design Standards on all City projects and create a Communication Plan that will align with the implementation.
Strategy 1.3	ACA will continue to work towards the creation of a Universal Design Coordinator position that would be cost shared by key Business Units, to support City projects from conceptual to final completion.
Strategy 1.4	ACA will ensure that the barrier-free design recommendations for the four new recreation facilities; Quarry Park, Rocky Ridge, Great Plains and Seton are incorporated into the design to accommodate people with disabilities.
Strategy 1.5	ACA will work with Calgary Municipal Land Corporation on design features to ensure people with disabilities are able to use the New Central Library.
Strategy 1.6	ACA will work with Calgary Roads on a new design for curb cut ramps.

## ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

### GOAL 2. TO HAVE ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 2.1	ACA will continue to participate in RouteAhead initiatives, specifically on the Greenline.
Strategy 2.2	ACA's representation on the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee (TLAC) will continue along with 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 (APS's).
Strategy 2.4	ACA will work with Roads on the Accessible/Audible Pedestrian Signal Strategy and for a request to increase the budget for APS's.
Strategy 2.5	ACA will provide barrier-free consultation on the Pedestrian Strategy "Step Forward", which will include barrier free path of travel, sidewalk hoarding, accessible/audible signals, crosswalk designs and underpass projects.
Strategy 2.6	ACA will continue to support Calgary Roads, Calgary Transit and Community & Neighbourhood Service on the snow and ice control (SNIC) programs at 100 priority bus stops.
Strategy 2.7	ACA will advocate increasing the fines for parking in an accessible parking stall through the Calgary Parking Authority.

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## ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

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### GOAL 3. TO EDUCATE BUSINESS UNITS AND COUNCIL ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 3.1	ACA will encourage the provision of alternate formats at all City-hosted engagement sessions, town halls and special events. These may include captioning, sign language, large font, braille, plain language, narrative descriptions (verbal translations of graphs and pictures).
Strategy 3.2	ACA will create a checklist for alternate format information for the Corporation and will work with Customer Service and Communication on implementation.
Strategy 3.3	ACA will promote the availability of tactile and braille lettering for garbage and recycling receptacles.
Strategy 3.4	ACA will continue to monitor Public Safety Communication on the implementation of the text to 911 services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Strategy 3.5	ACA will continue to monitor and advise Corporate Web Services, with respect to calgary.ca to incorporate web accessibility features to create enhanced site access for people with hearing and vision loss.

## 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 Calgary Awards, Award for Accessibility, now in its 20th year.
Strategy 4.2	ACA will host an event and present their Annual Advocacy, Access Recognition and Accessible Transportation Awards on or around December 3, 2015, International Day of Persons with disabilities.
Strategy 4.3	ACA through on-going education and awareness will increase knowledge, and promote change for inclusive communities. This can be done through the use of the Access Design Standards and Accessibility Checklist.
Strategy 4.4	ACA will support the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), Public Safety Communications and Calgary Police Service with a self-registry for vulnerable populations to provide information to first responders for the care and safety for those people in need of support in emergency situations.
Strategy 4.5	ACA will meet annually with City Council to advise them on our key work areas and provide information on disability matters.
Strategy 4.6	ACA will be involved in updating the Corporate Access Design Standards and Universal Design Handbook.
Strategy 4.7	ACA will provide guidance on how The City of Calgary can support the Government of Canada's United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
Strategy 4.8	ACA will work closely on the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy engagement and implementation.