

## Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) – Strategic Plan Summary

### MISSION

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

### 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

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.

### SUSTAINABILITY 2020

By 2020, City facilities and spaces incorporate the Access Design Standards for physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities.

#### CS&PS 2012-2014 Departmental Outcomes

- 1C4:** Increase compliance with Accessibility policies and standards
- IC4.2:** Work towards facilities meeting Corporate Access Design Standards

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.

## 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 ensure the use of the Corporate Access Design Standards on all City projects.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Strategy 1.2  | ACA will continue to work with business units on affordable, accessible housing.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Strategy 1.3  | ACA's access reviews will ensure the four new recreation facilities; Quarry Park, Rocky Ridge, Great Plains and Seton will accommodate all people with disabilities.                                                                                         |
| Strategy 1.4  | ACA's vision of the development of housing that includes barrier free features, like wider doors and hallways, lower light switches, higher power outlets, adaptable showers and a main floor bathroom to be incorporated into all new housing developments. |
| Strategy 1.5  | ACA will provide universal design input to all Centre City projects.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Strategy 1.6  | ACA will work with Calgary Roads on a new design for wheelchair curb cut ramps.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Strategy 1.7  | ACA will support Centre City's incentive density bonusing for providing units designed for universal accessibility.                                                                                                                                          |
| Strategy 1.8  | ACA will support the design and location of the new community mail boxes.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Strategy 1.9  | ACA will work with Calgary Municipal Lands Corporation on design features to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in the new Calgary Public Library.                                                                                             |
| Strategy 1.10 | ACA will continue to work towards the creation of a Universal Design Coordinator position to support City projects from conceptual to final completion.                                                                                                      |

## ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

### GOAL 2. TO HAVE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INCLUDE CALGARIANS.

| STRATEGIES   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategy 2.1 | ACA will continue to participate in RouteAhead initiatives.                                                                                                                                                     |
| 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 audible pedestrian signals.                                                                                                                |
| Strategy 2.4 | ACA will work with Access Calgary to implement the recommendations of their performance audit.                                                                                                                  |
| Strategy 2.5 | ACA will provide barrier-free consultation on Pedestrian Strategy, Sidewalk Hoarding, Underpass projects and Bicycle Strategy.                                                                                  |
| Strategy 2.6 | ACA will support Calgary Parking Authority in their provision of accessible parking stalls, fine development, signage, education and awareness programs.                                                        |
| Strategy 2.7 | ACA will support Calgary Roads, snow and ice control report being brought before the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and Transit on July 18, 2014 to include the needs of people with disabilities. |
| Strategy 2.8 | ACA will support the implementation of the Audible Pedestrian Signal Strategy.                                                                                                                                  |

## ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

### GOAL 3. EDUCATING 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.                                     |
| Strategy 3.2 | ACA will provide event consultation for the May 2014 Opening and Closing ceremonies for all Olympic and Paralympic Canadian athletes that participated in Sochi. |
| Strategy 3.3 | ACA will promote the availability of tactile and Braille lettering for garbage and recycling receptacles.                                                        |
| Strategy 3.4 | ACA will advise Public Safety Communication on the implementation of the text to 911 service for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.                        |
| Strategy 3.5 | ACA will promote the use of descriptive narrative across business units, so staff can provide verbal translation of graphs and pictures for presentations.       |
| Strategy 3.6 | ACA will support the technology of calgary.ca to create enhanced site access for people with hearing and vision loss.                                            |
| Strategy 3.7 | ACA will provide input into Crisis Communication in preparation for emergency situations, so all disability needs will get the information they require.         |

## ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

### GOAL 4. LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

| STRATEGIES   |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategy 4.1 | ACA will continue to support the Mayor's Award for Accessibility, now in its 19th year.                                                                                                |
| Strategy 4.2 | ACA will host an event and present their Annual Advocacy, Access Recognition and Accessible Transportation Awards on December 3, 2014, International Day of Persons with disabilities. |
| Strategy 4.3 | ACA through on-going activities will increase the knowledge, and promote change or growth toward more inclusive communities, with The Corporation and community initiatives.           |
| Strategy 4.4 | ACA will support the creation of a Universal Design Coordinator position to enhance the professional work being done by staff across The Corporation.                                  |
| Strategy 4.5 | ACA will meet annually with City Council to advise them on our key work areas and provide knowledge 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 to provide guidance on how The City of Calgary can support the Federal Government 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.                                                                                              |