

Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) – Strategic Plan Summary 2016-2017

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 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	Key Focus Area 2016: ACA will support the completion of the 2016 Corporate Access Design Standards to be used on all City projects by working with the one-time funded 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 one-time funded position in Planning & Development to support City projects from conceptual stage to final completion of City projects.
Strategy 1.3	ACA will provide leadership with Councillor Farrell's Notice of Motion, NM2015-16 - 'Improving Calgary's Accessibility', through collaboration with Facility Management, Corporate Planning Approvals, Calgary Building Services, Community Planning.
Strategy 1.4	ACA will continue to work with Calgary Municipal Lands Corporation on design features to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in the New Central Library.
Strategy 1.5	ACA will work with Calgary Roads on a new design for curb cut ramps with tactile truncated domes, pertaining to the pilot in Kensington between Kensington Road and 5 Avenue North West intersections.
Strategy 1.6	ACA will work with the Seniors Age Friendly Strategy on the creation of charging stations for individuals who use mobility devices in public buildings, with the support of businesses. This will allow more independence for people who want to be out in the community for long periods of time.

ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

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

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 2.1	Key Focus Area 2016: ACA will continue to participate in RouteAhead initiatives, specifically on the Green Line design, commencing with the South East line.
Strategy 2.2	ACA's representation on the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee (TLAC) 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 for a request to increase the budget for APS's.
Strategy 2.5	ACA will provide accessibility information for the Pedestrian Strategy "Step Forward" 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) programs.
Strategy 2.7	ACA will work with Calgary Roads on increasing the number of accessible parking stalls in the downtown core.

ACA GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

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

STRATEGIES	
Strategy 3.1	<u>Key Focus Area 2016:</u> ACA will encourage the provision of alternate accessible 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 work with Customer Service & Communications staff for implementation.
Strategy 3.3	ACA will promote the availability of tactile and Braille lettering for garbage and recycling receptacles through the creation of a web portal focussing on all accessible City services.
Strategy 3.4	ACA will work closely with the one-time funded Human Resource Advisor-Access Learning & Development on change management projects to increase the awareness and understanding of people with disabilities through the creation of a communications plan.
Strategy 3.5	ACA will work with Web Services on the technology of calgary.ca 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 Mayor's Award for Accessibility now in its 22nd year, 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 around 2016 December 3, 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 Accessibility Checklist.
Strategy 4.4	ACA will support Calgary Police Service with a self-registry for vulnerable populations in case of a disaster or emergency situation.
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 updating the Corporate Access Design Standards, Universal Design Handbook and Checklist.
Strategy 4.7	ACA will provide guidance on how The City of Calgary can support the federal government response to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a new Canadians with Disabilities Act through public engagement sessions planned by the federal government.
Strategy 4.8	Key Focus Area 2016: ACA will work closely with the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy on a Communications Guidelines Action Team to accommodate the accessible communications needs of seniors.

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	<u>Key Focus Area 2016:</u> 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, through on-going education and awareness, will work with Council on the importance of Secondary Suites for people with disabilities.
Strategy 5.4	ACA will meet with Attainable Homes on accessible, affordable housing stock and how we create units in the community.
Strategy 5.5	ACA will work with Administration working on the City Charter process promoting the development of housing that includes an increase in the number of barrier-free units, along with barrier-free building features like wider doors and hallways, lower light switches, higher power outlets, adaptable showers 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 CPAG to increase adaptable units in the development industry.