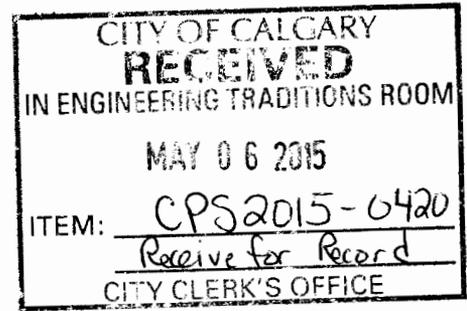


**COMMUNITY SERVICES & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTATION  
SUPPORT – 2014 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY ANNUAL REPORT**

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Time: 4:37

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**Talking Points:**

- Good morning, my name is Colin Cantlie, a former member of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) Sub Design Committee.
- It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am before you today in support of the excellent work of the ACA and their sub-committees (Design and Transportation) and to speak of the 2014 ACA Annual Report.
- Over the past number of years the City of Calgary has made excellent inroads towards effective accessible communication strategies such as the Council Chamber – **Captioning** on community television of the Council Meetings, here in the Engineering Traditions Committee room, live streaming on the web and at meetings where accessible communication is required and at the Calgary Awards presentation in June each year.
- However, I come here today to add more thought to the strategy that will embrace every aspect of the work in the domain of the City of Calgary.
- I sincerely ask that when Council Members, City and Protective Staff go into the public domain to speak of the City's business that **Captioning** and **Signing** be an automatic and integral part of the communication strategies.
- There needs to be a mechanism for all public engagement whereby **someone** from the public can request captioning, a sign language interpreter or large FONT materials, if they need it to be fully engaged and be able to participate. It needs to be part of how the City does business with the community.
- The City's policy supports and provides accessibility to all citizens and that should also mean at all venues.
- In addition, the city's accessibility policy must be in place and fully supported during election time, emergencies and civic functions.
- It is not enough to suggest that accessibility be in place but rather make it be mandatory so that everyone has the ability and the right to fully interact and engage with the complete process of electing our civic political body.
- This is, of course, not only for the citizens who wish to learn more of the candidates but also to all potential candidates wanting to run for office.
- Budgets need to be properly prepared to include sufficient funding for effective communication strategies that allows ALL citizens access to all venues and events... i.e.: town hall meeting, political debates, meetings and

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the like. (*Example: When I go to my Councilman's town hall meetings in my residential community, and Town Hall forums there is not even being a microphone, so I am unable to hear and participate, like everyone else in attendance.*)

- Should emergencies arise, it is vitally important to ensure full and effective accessible communication is available, at the same time – audible and visual communication alike.
- My compliments to all involved for the excellent work that was done to have TEXT 911 up and running as quickly as it was. Calgary was once again a leader in the country for ensuring this communication strategy was tested and implemented swiftly and effectively.
- Concern may arise – “*no one has asked for it*” or “*no one uses it*” it is a cost item so why is it needed to provide the additional communication strategies?
- Please remember, we are voters, citizens and we are also the public – we do add value.
- It is never wise to leave people out of the equation as that is negatively seen by many.
- All levels of government want to see people engaged in the process and to do that means accommodation to include all citizens.
- The fact that you honour all of us in your communication strategies is applauded but one can always do better.
- Never rest on your laurels! – We have aging baby boomers that want to be involved in their community and will require communication accessibility.
- When we, *members of the community of persons with disabilities*, gain trust in the ability to participate at all venues then you will see more participation by members of the community of persons with disabilities and others.
- People in my hard of hearing and Deaf communities have been left out for years because the communication supports aren't at community meetings or public events
- Making a strong and effective community means inclusion and never assuming the needs of others.
- Thank you for your time