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The Regional Municipality of Durham
Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

A regular meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 in the Oshawa Meeting Room, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:00 PM

J. McEwen assumed the Chair.

1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

K. Smith read the following land acknowledgement:

The Region of Durham exists on lands that the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg inhabited for thousands of years prior to European colonization. These lands are the traditional and treaty territories of the Nations covered under the Williams Treaties, including the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and the Chippewa Nations of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama.

We honour, recognize, and respect Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and stewards of the lands and waters on which we have the privilege to live. In our efforts towards reconciliation, we continue to build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, as well as the growing Inuit communities and large Métis communities and here in Durham. We commit to learning from Indigenous values and knowledge, building opportunities for collaboration, and recognizing that we are all connected.

2. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.
* indicates individuals who participated electronically.

Members

Present: J. McEwen*, Chair
P. Chandwani*, Vice-Chair
W. Henshall attended the meeting at 1:43 PM
M. Jaffer*
M. Lloyd
Councillor McDougall
L. Saumur*
S. Sones
J. Stevenson*

Members

Absent: L. Williams

Staff Present: A. Hector-Alexander*, P. Hines, R. Inacio, K. Smith, K. Wall

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by P. Chandwani, Seconded by J. Stevenson,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on
Tuesday, September 23, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

5. Discussion Items

A) Durham Region Accessibility Decal Project

K. Wall advised the education sub-committee has been working on draft criteria for the Durham Region Accessibility Decal project to share with the Committee for feedback to move forward with the project in early 2026. K. Wall shared the decal with Committee members and provided a verbal description of the decal.

Discussion ensued with regards to updating the wheelchair icon to the forward movement icon on the decal; the criteria for the businesses to obtain the decal; and who reviews and approves the requests.

K. Wall stated that the draft goals of the decal project are creating a barrier free environment, enhanced customer services, expanded client base, and promoting community engagement. She stated that the draft criteria document would be shared with Committee members and requested Committee members to provide their feedback by email.

Further discussion ensued with regards to the goal of businesses aiming to be more accessible in the future; different levels or stages for the program as businesses become more accessible; creating a checklist for businesses as a self assessment; and if the decal will be for websites or only physical spaces.

K. Wall requested that Committee members provide any further feedback by December 15, 2025.

B) 2025 Compliance Report

K. Wall shared the draft 2025 Compliance Report with Committee members prior to the meeting and advised that it is required to be submitted to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility by the end of 2025.

P. Hines requested that any feedback or comments be provided by the end of the week so that the report can be submitted in early December.

6. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

K. Wall thanked Committee members for their hard work with the Region of Durham Disability Employment Conference that took place on October 31, 2025. She advised there were 154 people registered for the event and there were approximately 300 people in attendance including 20 vendor/resource support centre businesses and organizations, and 5 hiring event businesses and organizations.

K. Wall further advised 3 people participated in the online testing for the two Durham Region positions posted for Food Service Aide and Maintenance Worker 1. W. Henshall advised one person is in a job competition with Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

The November 18, 2025 Transit Advisory Committee meeting update from J. McEwen was emailed to Committee members.

W. Henshall advised he requested that drivers be provided further training to communicate to passengers when they are not being dropped off at the regular stop, so they are aware of their surroundings.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

K. Wall provided the following update:

- There is currently one vacancy on the Committee for a person with a family member with a disability.
- The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2026-2030 is still in progress and will be shared with Committee members shortly for review.
- The Durham Vision Zero Audit being conducted by CIMA+ has been delayed and they will be providing a presentation to the Committee in the new year.
- The Durham Region Transit Steering Committee is developing an accessibility plan and is looking for members with lived experience with a disability who takes transit regularly, and a community program member or someone who works with an organization which supports people with disabilities.
- There is an Accessibility Advisory Committee social event taking place on June 2, 2026 with the local municipal AACs to allow for networking and updates. The time and location will be shared at a later date.
- There is an International Day of Persons with a Disabilities event taking place on December 2, 2025 at 1:00 PM in the Regional Council Chambers. The theme is Innovating for Inclusive Futures with guest speakers from Durham Deaf Services and Participation House as well as Durham Region 311 staff and Adult Protective Services who support

individuals with developmental services. There will also be a ceremony for the raising of the disabilities flag.

7. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by M. Lloyd, Seconded by P. Chandwani,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

J. McEwen
Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

K. Smith
Committee Clerk