



# The Township of Beckwith

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## Annual Accessibility Status Report

**12/19/2023**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The province of Ontario supports the rights of persons with disabilities of all ages to enjoy equal opportunity and to participate fully in the life of the province.

Currently, people with disabilities experience barriers daily that prevent them from joining in the mainstream of Ontario society. The percentage of the population with disabilities is expected to increase in the years to come.

Beckwith Township, along with the Government of Ontario is committed to working with society to build on what has already been achieved. People with disabilities have a right to equal treatment, without discrimination, in accordance with the Human Rights Code, addressed in several Ontario Statutes and regulations.

Ontario recognizes that accessibility is a shared responsibility and passed the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001, requiring provincial and municipal governments to review their policies, services and programs by developing annual accessibility plans.

In 2005 the Province of Ontario expanded on the previous act of 2001. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 now included the private sector as well as provincial and municipal governments. The provincial goal is to achieve accessibility for the people of Ontario with disabilities by the year 2025. The new act included five specific areas, all to be completed within their own specific time periods.

- Customer service
- Information and communications
- Employment
- Transportation
- Built environment

Beckwith Township is committed to treating people with the respect deserved; ensuring people are able to maintain independence as well as self-respect. We are committed to removing barriers and meeting accessibility requirements set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, in a timely manner. We support equal opportunity rights and integration, equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

## **STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

The Township of Beckwith is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner and shall do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting the accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

<b>2009</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adopted accessible customer service standard policy and procedures (By-Law NO. 2009-59)</li><li>• developed and implemented a customer feedback form</li><li>• Developed and implemented a record of customer feedback</li><li>• Developed and implemented a record of accessible customer service training</li><li>• Implemented a customer service training plan</li><li>• Developed and implemented scheduled and unexpected service disruption notice</li></ul>
<b>2010</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build the Beckwith Recreation Complex, including all accessible features</li><li>• Implemented accessible parking at the recreation complex</li><li>• Implemented accessible information for the municipality website</li></ul>
<b>2011</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developed a municipal Facebook page</li><li>• Adopted the Lanark County Emergency Preparedness Booklet to our website in an accessible format</li></ul>
<b>2012</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Built an accessible park at the recreation complex</li><li>• Built an accessible splash pad at the recreation complex</li></ul>
<b>2013</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adoption of new accessibility policy and procedure</li><li>• Installed an accessible viewing ramp in the arena</li></ul>
<b>2017</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Built an accessible splash pad that is level ground and accessible</li><li>• Built a playground structure with a rubber surface and accessible swings</li></ul>
<b>2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Status Report Posted on Website</li></ul>
<b>2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed Accessibility Policies</li><li>• Annual Status Report Posted on Website</li></ul>
<b>2020</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed Accessibility Policies</li><li>• Accessibility Plan was created for 2019-2024 and has been made available on our website and at the Municipal Office</li><li>• Annual Status Report Posted on Website</li></ul>
<b>2021</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed Accessibility Policies</li><li>• Annual Status Report Posted on Website</li></ul>
<b>2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed Accessibility Policies</li><li>• Annual Status Report Posted on Website</li><li>• New Staff Completed AODA Training</li></ul>

**2023**

- Reviewed Accessibility Policies
- Annual Status Report Posted on Website
- New Staff Completed AODA Training
- In the Process of Building a New Municipal Office / Community Hall which will be compliant with the Accessible Act and Building Code of 2023.

**COMMUNICATION**

The Beckwith Township Accessibility Status Report will be made available to the public through the municipal website; it will also be available at the Township office. The website is available in accessible formats.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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