



## Annual Accessibility Status Report

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A Summary of the Township of Southwold's Accomplishments Towards Inclusion in 2017-2018

## **Objectives and Purpose**

This is the Township of Southwold's Annual Accessibility Report Status update. In 2013, the Township of Southwold released our first Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ontario Regulation 191/11). The plan outlined our strategy to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility, which included how we will meet phased-in requirements under the AODA. In 2015, the Township released its second Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which will take the Township's accessibility efforts into 2020. This Status Report includes the accessibility initiatives that were completed from 2017 to 2018 to implement the strategy outlined in our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The purpose of this Status Report is to make the public aware of the Township of Southwold's progress with accessibility implementation and to prevent and remove barriers and meet requirements under the AODA.

## **Compliance Reporting**

The Township of Southwold filed its 2017 Accessibility Compliance Report in December 2017 with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario under the Ministry of Economic Development Trade and Employment Services.

## **Township of Southwold's Commitment Statement**

Township of Southwold's statement of commitment establishes the vision and goals for the Township to meet the legislated accessibility requirements. The Township's statement of commitment is publicly available on the Township website.

The Township of Southwold is committed to eliminating barriers and improving accessibility for people with disabilities in a manner that respects dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity.

The Township of Southwold recognizes the diverse needs of all our residents and customers and will respond by striving to provide goods, services and facilities that are accessible to all.

The Township of Southwold is committed to being responsive to the needs of all its residents and employees. In order to meet the needs of people with disabilities the Township will:

- Ensure policies address dignity, independence, integration and provide for equal opportunity for people with disabilities.
- Allow people with disabilities to use their own personal devices to obtain, use or benefit from the services offered by the Township.
- Accommodate the accessibility needs of people with disabilities to ensure they can obtain, use or benefit from the Township's goods, services, programs and facilities.
- Communicate with people with disabilities in a manner that takes into account the person's disability.

The Township will promote accessibility by ensuring that compliance is met for all regulations made under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Timelines for compliance vary. In order to ensure that timelines are met, the Township will establish, implement and maintain a multi-year accessibility plan. The plan will outline the Township's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to people with disabilities.

## Continuous Achievements in Accessibility

- The Township focuses on removing barriers which may exist in our buildings and facilities, while ensuring that new buildings, leases, and renovations do not create any barriers.
- The Township of Southwold adopted an Accessibility Policy which outlines what the Township will do to comply with the Regulations and what our customers and employees can expect.
- The Township continues to comply with the requirements of the Customer Service Standards including continuing to train staff, volunteers and third parties who interact on behalf of the Township on an ongoing basis.
- The Township of Southwold's Library at the Southwold Keystone Complex continues to provide accessible materials and resources available including but not limited to: large print books, audio books, CELA Library loan access, electronic materials with zoom features, hand held magnifiers as well as ZoomText with large print keyboards.
- Notifying the public of accommodations for applications with disabilities in its recruitment process.
- Continue to review customer feedback and take appropriate action.

## Highlights of 2017-2018

- Fully accessible library facility opened, Southwold Township Library, Shedden (2017)
- Fully accessible public washroom facility in Fingal (2018)
- Adult change table installed in Southwold Township Library, Shedden (2018)

## Current Initiatives of 2019

- New sidewalk planned for Talbotville Gore
- New accessible washroom, playground in Shedden
- Updates to the Fingal Heritage Park in Fingal

## Availability of the Plan and Status Report

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Annual Accessibility Status Report can be accessed through Township of Southwold's website: [www.southwold.ca/residents/accessibility](http://www.southwold.ca/residents/accessibility)

## Contact Information

For more information – Key contacts

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Accessible formats and communication supports available upon request.