



# Staff Report to Special Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee

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**DATE: Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

**DEPARTMENT: Administration**

**SUBJECT: City of Langford Accessibility Related Project Update**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The City of Langford has completed the projects outlined within this report throughout the last half of the year prior to the adoption of the accessibility plan. This report serves as a brief update on initiatives in Langford.

## **BACKGROUND:**

At its Regular Meeting held Monday, October 21, 2024, the City of Langford Council passed the following resolution:

*THAT Council receive the City of Langford's Draft Accessibility Plan in partnership with the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee;*

*AND*

*THAT the document be made available for public inspection at City Hall and on the City's website.*

The City published the document on the Let's Chat Langford engagement platform including a detailed timeline of events as well as a list of options for those wishing to leave feedback. Printed copies were available for public inspection at City Hall. The public engagement closed on December 6, 2024.

Currently, staff are preparing a report for the January 13, 2025 Regular Council meeting to include a summary of feedback received, a potentially revised Accessibility Plan if feedback received indicates changes may be required, and a recommendation to adopt the plan.

During this time, the City has been working on accessibility related initiatives identified in the draft plan and wishes to provide a year end update to the Committee and broader community.

**COMMENTARY:**

Below are some recently completed initiatives in respect to accessibility improvements in Langford.

Initiative from Langford's Accessibility Plan: *"Commissioned an Accessibility Audit on the Langford Station Cultural District."*

As identified in the Langford Station Cultural District Accessibility Audit, the City has installed an automatic door and permanent ramp for the largest (40') business unit to increase public accessibility. In addition, the City is in the process of supplying a portable ramp for the Cultural District that will suit the smaller business units at this location. Further improvements and changes will be made in alignment with the accessibility audit and through feedback from the public.

Initiative from Langford's Accessibility Plan: *"Purchased Assistive Tools for Use at Reception and Public Facing Areas."*

Through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), the City was able to purchase a variety of signing guides that will help individuals with visual impairments sign documents and complete cheques. These guides are black plastic and create a boundary area for someone to sign within. The high contrast between the white paper and black plastic will help individuals sign documents confidently. This tool may also work for those with tremors as the individual may hit the plastic guide with the pen and prevent someone from erroneously filling in another area of the document.

Initiative from Langford's Accessibility Plan: *"Designed Inclusive Banners for Streetlights."*

The City commissioned new streetlight banners for display throughout the City. These banners offer inclusive representation. Through feedback collected, it was noted that the City could go further to highlight and celebrate diversity within the community. The banner proofs have been attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

Initiative from Langford's Accessibility Plan: *"Included Accessibility Considerations in the Community Garden Policy."*

The City just introduced a new policy regarding Community Gardens. Langford is hoping to work with a service provider who will oversee the garden spaces. Accessibility considerations were included within the policy to ensure the space can serve a diverse population. As the policy is implemented and the garden is established, further accessibility updates will be provided.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**OPTIONS:**

This report has been submitted for information only.

**SUBMITTED BY: Nisa Johnston, Legislative Services Administrative Coordinator**

**Concurrence:** Melisa Miles, Manager of Legislative Services

**Concurrence:** Marie Watmough, Director of Legislative & Protective Services

Attachments: City of Langford Banner Proofs