



Accessibility Recognition Program Guidelines

Department: Legislative Services

Last Revision: June 2017

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Policy Statement

The Municipality of Meaford supports the goals of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and is committed to meeting the requirements of existing legislation and policies related to identification, removal and prevention of barriers to people with disabilities in order to become a barrier-free community.

Program Summary

To promote greater accessibility and accessibility awareness, the program recognizes individuals, groups and businesses in the Municipality of Meaford who have taken significant steps to create inclusive environments and to provide exceptional customer services.

Definitions

“Barrier” is an obstacle that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice.

“Municipality” means the Municipality of Meaford.



Program Details

Nomination Categories

Nominations can be made in the following categories:

- **Education:**
 - A teacher or individual who demonstrates enthusiasm, innovation and commitment in creating an accessible learning environment
- **Employment:**
 - an individual, group or business who demonstrates flexible and respectful integration of people with disabilities into their workforce
- **Recreation & Culture:**
 - an individual, group or business who creates welcoming and inclusive recreational and/or cultural opportunities by eliminating barriers to participation
- **Customer Service:**
 - an individual, group or business who are leaders in providing exceptional customer service to people with disabilities
- **Built Environment:**
 - a building, interior or outdoor space designed or renovated to eliminate barriers and/or enhance access for people with disabilities
- **Youth:**
 - a youth, 18 years or younger, who makes an outstanding contribution to increase the active engagement and participation of people with disabilities
- **Other:**
 - Activities, achievements and projects that are not captured in the above categories

How to Nominate

To nominate a deserving individual, group or business for an Accessibility Recognition Award, a nomination form (attached as Appendix 1) must be completed and submitted to the Municipality's Accessibility Coordinator. Nomination forms are available on the Accessibility webpage, at the Municipal office and upon request from the Accessibility Coordinator. Nominations can be submitted at any time. If you need assistance with your nomination, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility @meaford.ca](mailto:accessibility@meaford.ca) or 519-538-1060 ext. 1100.

The nomination form must demonstrate how the nominee(s) provided, promoted and/or enhanced a barrier-free environment for all persons to participate as fully as possible in



community life. Nominations must include details of how the individual, group or business went above and beyond to create an accessible and inclusive environment for people with disabilities.

Individuals nominated must be residents of the Municipality of Meaford, or be the owner or employee of a business operating in the municipality. Groups or businesses must have been in operation for a minimum of one year.

Nominations can be made by an individual, group, business or municipal organization. Self-nominations are not permitted.

Selection Process and Criteria

Once submitted, nominations will be considered at the next scheduled Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. The Accessibility Advisory Committee will consider the following factors as it evaluates nominees for an Accessibility Recognition Award:

- The degree to which the nominee and/or initiative demonstrates innovation and creativity in preventing, identifying and removing barriers to accessibility
- The degree to which the nominee and/or initiative enhances accessibility for persons with disabilities
- The degree to which the nominee and/or initiative improves the quality of life for persons with disabilities
- The impact the nominee and/or initiative has on developing and delivering interesting and effective awareness about disability and accessibility issues

Award Presentation

Recipients of the Accessibility Recognition Award will be invited to attend a Council meeting where they will be presented a certificate commending their contribution to accessibility in the municipality. Details of award winners and initiatives will be posted on the municipal website.

Review

The Accessibility Recognition Program will be reviewed annually by the Accessibility Advisory Committee with support from the Accessibility Coordinator.

Contact

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Attachments

1. Nomination form