

The Nation Municipality

Annual Accessibility Status Report 2024

The Corporation of The Nation Municipality has established a multi-year accessibility plan to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility and to meet requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and the Integrated Accessibility Standards.

This Annual Status Report details the required annual update for the year 2024 on the progress of measures taken to improve accessibility. The purpose of this report is to track our organization's progress and make the public aware of our initiatives.

This report is available online at www.nationmun.ca

To request an alternate format of this report, please contact the Clerk's Office at clerk@nationmun.ca or 613-764-5444.

General Accomplishments

- Completed the construction of an accessible pathway at Marcel-Legault Park in the Village of St-Isidore, partially funded by the Inclusive Community Grant from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, enhancing wheelchair accessibility between park installations
- Raised accessibility awareness by publishing informational materials during National Accessibility Week (May 26 to June 1, 2024), further promoting inclusivity within the community.
- Submitted a grant application for the renovation of the Arena in the Village of St-Isidore, which includes the addition of a wheelchair-accessible platform for spectators and accessible washrooms, as recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Filed a grant application for the enhancement of accessible features in the Council Chambers and washrooms at The Nation's Town Hall in Casselman, aligning with the Accessibility Advisory Committee's recommendations for improved access and inclusivity.
- Improved accessibility of Commissioner of Oaths services by offering mobile services at no additional cost, removing barriers to access for residents in need of these services.
- Introduced a sound amplification device at the Head Office, ensuring better communication for visitors with hearing impairments.
- Launched a new direct messaging system that delivers important notices in writing (via SMS, email, or in-app notifications) and audio (via phone call), enabling residents of all abilities to stay informed about emergencies and municipal initiatives.
- Implemented Escribe meeting management software, improving the accessibility of meeting agendas and reports, making it easier for all community members to access information related to municipal proceedings.

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Customer Service Accomplishments

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- Submitted a grant application for the renovation of the Arena in the Village of St-Isidore, which includes the addition of a wheelchair-accessible platform for spectators and accessible washrooms, as recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Filed a grant application for the enhancement of accessible features in the Council Chambers and washrooms at The Nation's Town Hall in Casselman, aligning with the Accessibility Advisory Committee's recommendations for improved access and inclusivity.
- Improved accessibility of Commissioner of Oaths services by offering mobile services at no additional cost, removing barriers to access for residents in need of these services.
- Introduced a sound amplification device at the Head Office, ensuring better communication for visitors with hearing impairments.
- Launched a new direct messaging system that delivers important notices in writing (via SMS, email, or in-app notifications) and audio (via phone call), enabling residents of all abilities to stay informed about emergencies and municipal initiatives.
- Implemented Escribe meeting management software, improving the accessibility of meeting agendas and reports, making it easier for all community members to access information related to municipal proceedings.

Information and Communications Accomplishments

- Raised accessibility awareness by publishing informational materials during National Accessibility Week (May 26 to June 1, 2024), further promoting inclusivity within the community.
- Launched a new direct messaging system that delivers important notices in writing (via SMS, email, or in-app notifications) and audio (via phone call), enabling residents of all abilities to stay informed about emergencies and municipal initiatives.
- Implemented Escribe meeting management software, improving the accessibility of meeting agendas and reports, making it easier for all community members to access information related to municipal proceedings.

Employment Accomplishments

- Filed a grant application for the enhancement of accessible features in the Council Chambers and washrooms at The Nation's Town Hall in Casselman, aligning with the Accessibility Advisory Committee's recommendations for improved access and inclusivity.

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Design of Public Spaces Accomplishments

- Completed the construction of an accessible pathway at Marcel-Legault Park in the Village of St-Isidore, partially funded by the Inclusive Community Grant from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, enhancing wheelchair accessibility between park installations
- Submitted a grant application for the renovation of the Arena in the Village of St-Isidore, which includes the addition of a wheelchair-accessible platform for spectators and accessible washrooms, as recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Filed a grant application for the enhancement of accessible features in the Council Chambers and washrooms at The Nation's Town Hall in Casselman, aligning with the Accessibility Advisory Committee's recommendations for improved access and inclusivity.

Summary of Consultations

During the year 2024, the Accessibility Advisory Committee met on April 11 and August 19. During the said meetings, the Committee made recommendations regarding the following:

- Accessible path and other potential accessibility improvements at the Marcel Legault Park in the Village of St-Isidore.
- Accessible improvements to be added to the planned renovation of the St-Isidore Arena in 2025
- Accessible improvements to the St-Albert Community Centre
- Accessible improvements to the Council Chambers and washroom at the Town Hall in Casselman

Next Steps

In 2025, the Committee will ensure that every project undertaken by the Municipality will follow the guiding principles and strategies and actions found in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2028.

The steps expected to move forward in 2025 are the following:

- The Municipality will continue to seek funding for the following projects to support their future completion:
 - o Renovation of the Arena in the Village of St-Isidore, which includes the addition of a wheelchair-accessible platform for spectators and accessible washrooms, as recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
 - o Improvement of accessible installations of the Town Hall's Council chambers and accessible washroom
 - o Improvement of accessible installations at the St-Albert Community Centre
- The Committee will continue to meet at various municipal installations to provide recommendations for accessibility improvements.