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**To:** Council  
**From:** Loriann Harbers, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk  
**Date of Meeting:** October 23, 2019  
**Subject:** Adopt a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Township of South Stormont

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**Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the updated Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Township of South Stormont subject to any modifications requested by the SDG Accessibility Committee.

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**Background:**

The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers so that people living with disabilities will have more opportunities to participate in everyday life. The AODA mandates that each municipality prepare an Accessibility Plan to outline the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers. The AODA sets out the roadmap for an accessible Ontario by 2025.

An Accessibility Plan was first adopted by Council in 2003 and numerous updates have been made since that time.

Under the ADOA, the municipality is required report compliance with the Province every two years as a public sector organization. 2021 is a reporting year.

The AODA also provides that each municipality shall have an Accessibility Committee to review and comment on the plan. This review is mandatory every second year. The SDG Accessibility Committee, made up of a representative from each local municipality, will review the South Stormont Accessibility Plan. It has proven a challenge to gather the committee to date, however copies of the plan have been circulated and input and comments will be compiled and reported back to Council.

The attached draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines how the Township will continue to remove barriers and improve accessibility to our Township's goods, services and facilities over the next five years. The plan builds on our accomplishments introduced through our previous Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

This Multi-Year Plan only examines the customer service; information and communications; employment; and design of public spaces standards. Transportation is excluded from our plan due to the Township's relatively small size and the lack of transportation services provided.

Initiatives found within Appendix "A" of the draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan were either a requirement outlined within the given standard or an initiative that can further promote accessibility within South Stormont.

Appendix "B" within the draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan summarizes the results of a staff audit of municipal facilities based on existing AODA and Building Code requirements, undertaken to date. The items identified in Appendix "B" outline measures in which the Township can go above and beyond the basic requirements to ensure that the Township is at the forefront of accessibility initiatives. Appendix "B" will be updated and amended as additional facilities are inspected, work is undertaken or additional information is obtained. In accordance with the AODA and the Building Code, all Township of South Stormont facilities will be compliant with the relevant requirements by 2025.

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Township of South Stormont is for a 5-6 year period that began in 2019. As required by legislation, it is anticipated that the Plan will be updated biennially. Any outstanding and new issues will be brought forward prior to the annual budget review.

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**Options:**

1. That Council adopt the updated Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Township of South Stormont.
2. That Council not adopt the proposed Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the Township of South Stormont.
3. Other.

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**Others Consulted:**

Directors

*Prepared by:  
Ashley Sloan, Deputy Clerk*