

# **The Corporation of the Town of Espanola Accessibility Status Report 2020**

An update on the actions by Espanola to prevent and remove barriers for persons with disabilities.

The Municipality is committed to remove and prevent barriers that limit individuals with disabilities accessing services and facilities. The municipality continues to identify any opportunities to enhance accessibility needs within the community and implement as permitted. We will continue to work creating an inclusive community that will allow everyone equal opportunity to access services, programs and facilities.

## Accessibility Status Update for 2020

This annual report describes the progress and measures taken by the Town of Espanola in 2020 to improve accessibility and implement the requirements set out in the AODA.

### *Information and Communications Accomplishments*

In 2020 the Municipality implemented eScribe, which is a cloud-based meeting management program that allows Council agendas and streamed meetings to be easily accessed through the Town's website. This efficient new process allows residents to attend Council meetings virtually or watch a recorded version all while following along with the agenda package that is uploaded to the website in a HTML format.

In October the Town launched its new website, which meets accessibility requirements. The training that was provided included best practices in creating accessible documents.

The global pandemic has caused Council for the Town of Espanola to conduct their Regular and Special Meetings electronically. Zoom was the method of choice to accommodate this necessity. Zoom allows participants and viewers to access meetings without having to leave their home.

### *Transportation Accomplishments*

The Municipality was successful in their application to the Ministry of Transportation for Connecting Link Funding. During this construction, upgrades to sidewalks and curbs were completed, making them fully accessible.

Traffic lights were updated on Hwy 6 and now include accessible push buttons that emit a chirping sound when activated.

All suggestions and comments to improve accessibility within Espanola are welcomed. By working with all stakeholders, the Town of Espanola will meet these goals by focusing on improvements that can be made within our existing services and infrastructure as well as ensuring any new facilities, programs and services are AODA compliant.

Public input may be submitted to the Municipality by contacting us by email at [town@espanola.ca](mailto:town@espanola.ca); by phone at 705 869 1540 or in writing using the following address: Town of Espanola; 100 Tudhope St.; Suite #2; Espanola, ON P5E 1S6.