



SAULT STE. MARIE

Accessibility Status Report – Year-End 2025

Documents are available in accessible formats and with communication support, upon request.

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Approved by Council:

1. Background

In compliance with the [Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation, 2011 \(IASR\)](#) the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie must prepare an Annual Accessibility Status Report on the progress of measures taken to implement the strategies referenced in the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. This report outlines the ongoing efforts to remove barriers and improve accessibility within the Corporation. It reflects our continued commitment to the inclusion and full participation of people with disabilities in our community.

The IASR requires that Municipalities with a population over 10,000 shall establish, review and update their accessibility plans in consultation with persons with disabilities and if they have established an Accessibility Advisory Committee, they shall consult with the committee.

This Annual Accessibility Status Report highlights barrier removal activities undertaken in 2025.

2. 2025 Accessibility Plan – Commitment and Outcomes

Project	Commitment	Outcome and Notes
Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR)	\$20,000	Complete: The VPR program has experienced challenges maintaining an up-to-date registry, however City Staff and other partner agencies will be working proactively with the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre in 2026 to determine the future of the VPR going forward.
Curb Cut Removal	\$10,000	Funding not used: Curb cut removal program will be absorbed by PW through their reporting process.
Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)	\$10,000	Funding not used: Challenges identified with maintenance due to a variety of factors including age of existing equipment. PW has implemented a process for regular review of functions of APS and includes consultation with the AAC.
Parks Accessibility Equipment	\$20,000	In Progress: Installation of accessible swings, musical instruments and outdoor seating at Manzo Park Sensory playground project. Other park projects include accessibility features and equipment including Parkland Park, Kiwanis Park and Westwood Park.
Captioning City Council Meetings	\$6000	Funding not used: Advancements in online technology now include captioning.

<p>Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)</p>	<p>\$5000</p>	<p>In Progress: Council approved a pilot program for Video Remote Interpreting on Feb. 3, 2025. VRI was not used due to logistical problems including a labor strike with the service provider. An extension of the one-year pilot was approved by Council on Dec. 15, 2025 to increase VRI service outreach to include Bay Street Active Living Centre and Northern Community Centre - Active Living Centre.</p>
<p>John Rhodes Community Centre & Contingency</p>	<p>\$14,000</p>	<p>Various - Complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase of additional GFL barrier-free parking signs to pilot an increase in barrier-free parking available at this site. 2. Otter chair upholstery upgrade 3. Open House advertising to increase community feedback on Accessibility related items.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is in the final stages of developing the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) 2026-2030, with the goal of bringing it to Council for approval in Q1 2026. Therefore, as a general statement, 2025 can be seen as a transitional year. The new plan proposes new priorities and a revised approach to barrier removal that will give staff and the Accessibility Advisory Committee more flexibility in determining how accessibility funds are spent.

3. Other Accessibility Related Activities:

- 3.1. Ongoing** – Collaboration with Aquatic staff to provide Private Swimming Lessons for Reasons of Disability - Swimming lessons for individuals with disabilities who, due to the nature of their disability, have difficulty participating in group lessons.
- 3.2. February 2025** – Collaboration with several staff for completion of an Accessibility Audit from Ministry for Senior’s and Accessibility.
- 3.3. May 30, 2025** – Collaboration with several staff, summer students, and Accessibility Advisory Committee members, for AccessAbility Awareness Day activities featuring various accessibility awareness activities for staff.
- 3.4. Spring/Summer 2025** – Accessibility Advisory Committee participation in Transit Optimization Study feedback
- 3.5. Spring/Summer/Fall 2025** - Collaboration with GFL staff for three accessibility improvement projects:

- a) Outdoor signage was installed to clearly communicate the three different ways to access the GFL, including a ramp, stairs, and level access with an elevator.
- b) The addition of ramping for the GFL stage for events and ceremonies
- c) Pilot program for additional barrier-free parking

3.6. July 2025 – Collaboration with staff for a ramping update at the Bellevue Accessible Kayak Launch to decrease slope of ramp

3.7. Summer 2025 - Collaboration with Public Works to increase physical accessibility at Sackville/Second Line and Korah/Second Line by adding asphalt to make it easier to access the push buttons.

3.8. November 2025 - Collaboration with Transit and Planning staff for Accessibility Open House

3.9. December 2025 - Accessibility Compliance Report - Bi-annual submission to Ministry for Senior's and Accessibility. Compliance report has been added to the City website.

4. Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

4.1. A draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) is currently being reviewed by City Departments and will be presented to Council in Q1 2026.

4.2. Accessible document training for the creation and remediation of accessible documents, along with other training opportunities for staff will be a large focus of the MYAP in 2026.

4.3. Accessibility Policies are currently being updated and will establish the foundation for equitable access to the City's goods, services, programs, and facilities. This will guide how City employees deliver accessible and equitable service for all residents, visitors, and employees.

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