



**The Corporation of the  
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

**C O U N C I L   R E P O R T**

February 23, 2026

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council  
AUTHOR: Diane Morrell, Accessibility Coordinator  
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services  
RE: Multi-Year Accessibility Report 2026-2030

---

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of a new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) 2026-2030.

**Background**

The *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)* was enacted to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to support their involvement in identifying, removing, and preventing barriers to full participation. The ODA introduced the requirement for municipalities to prepare accessibility plans and to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to advise Council on matters such as barrier identification and removal.

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* built upon the ODA by establishing a province-wide framework for the development and implementation of mandatory accessibility standards. These standards are set out in the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)*, which applies to all obligated organizations, including the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

In accordance with the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)*, O. Reg. 191/11, the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie must establish, implement, maintain, and document a multi-year accessibility plan. The plan outlines the Corporation's strategy to prevent and remove barriers in accordance with the Regulation.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, 2026-2030 brings together all obligations under the IASR for the Corporation.

**Analysis**

The attached Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines the City's goals and actions to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for people with disabilities. It serves as a roadmap for continuous improvement, guiding how accessibility is achieved across all City services, programs, facilities, and public spaces. The proposed MYAP

2026-2030 has a strong focus on staff training to provide accessible customer services and communications. The Plan also contains goals and actions related to public transit services, the design of public spaces, and procurement. Goals and actions have been designed to be monitored throughout the course of the five-year plan, which will include annual reporting to Council.

Public consultation consisted of a public open house held on November 20, 2025. The Accessibility Coordinator also had meetings and discussions with various partners, including City Staff, in support of the development of the MYAP 2026-2030.

It is important to note that the goals and actions of the Plan are relatively high-level. Upon approval of the Plan, City staff will work to develop specific policies and guidelines to support the overall goals and actions of the Plan.

At its regular meeting held on January 11, 2026, the Accessibility Advisory Committee passed a resolution recommending that Council approve the Plan as presented.

*Be it resolved that the AAC recommends that Council approve the implementation of the MYAP.*

*Moved by: Derrick Lavallee*

*Seconded by: Diana Gerhart*

### **Financial Implications**

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan has an annual budget of \$85,000 for barrier removal and prevention activities and currently has \$61,000 in barrier removal reserves to support the implementation of the Plan.

### **Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact**

The MYAP supports the Strategic Plan by demonstrating:

- Community Development; Social Equity to support equitable access and opportunities for everyone;
- Quality of Life; Welcoming to instill a strong sense of community that embraces and celebrates diversity and culture with equitable, inclusive, and accessible community spaces;
- Infrastructure: Current and future assets to monitor, maintain, and redevelop existing infrastructure, including accessible and barrier-free; and
- Service Delivery; Customer Service and Eliminate Barriers to provide accessible communications, timely resolution of concerns, and fair treatment for all, by identifying and removing physical and digital barriers to enhance accessibility.

Approval of the MYAP 2026-2030 does not impact the Municipal Green House Gas Reduction Plan.

Multi-Year Accessibility Report

February 23, 2026

Page 3.

**Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Accessibility Coordinator dated February 23, 2026 concerning the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2026-2030, be received and that the Plan be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Morrell

Accessibility Coordinator

705.541.7310

[d.morrell@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:d.morrell@cityssm.on.ca)