



November 6, 2024

Bruce County Council
30 Park Street
PO Box 70
Walkerton ON N0G 2V0

Dear Warden Peabody and Members of Council:

Re: Request for Accessibility Coordinator

At their regular meeting held on November 5, 2024, the Council for the Town of South Bruce Peninsula adopted a resolution supporting the position taken by the Municipality of Kincardine with regard to seeking County Council's support to implement an Accessibility Coordinator position.

The Council for the Town of South Bruce Peninsula wishes to see the County of Bruce implement the position of Accessibility Coordinator at the County level in order to support the lower tier municipalities and the public with regard to accessibility issues and best practices. While our Council wishes to see a new position, they do not want to see the costs borne by the taxpayer and as such, would respectfully request that the County seek Provincial funding prior to the filling of the new position.

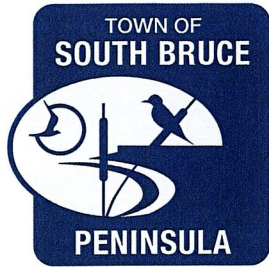
By way of this correspondence and Council's resolution which is attached, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula respectfully asks that Bruce County Council considers this request. We look forward to hearing from County Council regarding their decision in this regard.

Yours very truly,

Angie Cathrae
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com
519-534-1400 ext 122

Attachment

cc: Bruce County municipalities, MPP Rick Byers-Bruce/Grey/Owen Sound,
Honourable Raymond Cho-Minister of Seniors and Accessibility



Excerpt from Council Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2024

28. Notice of Motion – Deputy Mayor Hull - Request for Bruce County to Establish an Accessibility Coordinator

Discussion included the position and if it would be dependent on funding.

R-329-2024

It was **Moved** by C. Hull, **Seconded** by P. Deacon and **Carried**

Whereas in 2022, Statistics Canada reported that 28% of Ontarians identify as having a disability;

And whereas residents and visitors with disabilities continue to regularly face physical, attitudinal, environmental and technological barriers that prevent them from working, shopping, travelling, volunteering, or accessing community spaces which negatively impacts our communities, economic opportunities and personal sense of belonging;

And whereas both the County of Bruce and all 8 of the Lower Tier Municipalities are obligated to and have committed to removing barriers and working towards ensuring their facilities, services and amenities are compliant with both the Ontarians and Disability Act, 2001 (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA);

And whereas Accessibility Coordinators consult on accessibility related projects, assist with implementation of accessibility standards, provide training, communicate best practice, identify grant opportunities and share resources with staff, committees and the public;

And whereas the County of Bruce has already taken positively aligned actions by setting a goal of becoming a barrier-free community (Multi-Year Accessibility Plan), achieving a Dementia-friendly designation for Bruce County Libraries, introducing an Age Friendly Strategy and adopting a Transportation Master Plan that highlights the importance of accessibility.

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula supports the resolution of the Municipality of Kincardine requesting that the County of Bruce introduce an Accessibility Coordinator position to act as a collaborative, capacity-building resource for County and Lower Tier staff, Accessibility Advisory Committees

and the public so that Bruce County can become a leader in building accessible, welcoming communities for residents and visitors of all abilities;

And that the County of Bruce advocate for and secure assistance in the form of sustainable funding from the Ontario Provincial Government prior to the filling of this position;

And further that this resolution be sent to the County of Bruce, all other municipalities in the County of Bruce, Rick Byers – MPP Grey/Bruce Owen Sound, and Honourable Raymond Cho – Minister of Seniors and Accessibility.