

ACDI 2016 – A Year in Review

Committed to a Strong Committee

- Developed, monitored and achieved the 2016 ACDI Goals
- An ACDI member attended the Board Leadership training event
- Several ACDI members attended Viva la Volunteer presentation

Pursuing Understanding of Processes & Opportunities

- Maureen Mudry, Manager of Parks Planning Development, and Donna Merkl, Special Projects Coordinator, shared the completed and upcoming projects. They also described the value of the accessibility audits in identifying and planning for accessibility.
- Lee Ramsdell, from the Canadian Hard of hearing Association, explained the options to improve speech intelligibility in a variety of public places.
- Robert Sissons, Superintendent of Planning-Policy, used the Herald Community Plan as an example to explain what they look at in terms of community planning and redevelopment.
- Hank Claussen, Licence Inspector, provided an update on accessible taxis. He noted that while we did not yet have an accessible taxi there has been increased interest in these licenses following the joint Information Session (fall of 2015).

Achieving Accessibility & Inclusion by Working with Departments

- ACDI sponsored two visits from Lee Ramsdell, Vice President for the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, to speak about hearing accessibility in public spaces. Six meetings were arranged with key internal and external groups:
 - Safety Codes Officers
 - staff from Parks and Recreation, Corporate Communications department
 - staff from Corporate Asset Management, the Medicine Hat Public Library and consultants on the Veiner Centre and Library projects
 - public presentation
 - lunch and learn for audiologists and hearing aid practitioners
- Worked with the Municipal Works department to review, recommend, and prioritize accessibility improvements on South Railway, Kingsway and Riverside.
- Onsite accessibility meeting was held with the Municipal Works department to help them understand accessibility challenges along Kingsway.

- Accessibility audits of the Hill Pool, Police Point Interpretive Center, and the Kinette Korner were carried out. Results, recommendations and suggested priorities were provided.
- In an effort to create meaningful understanding of what it is like to use a screen reader JAWS (used by people who are blind or have low vision) an ACDI member toured Corporate Communications department staff through aspects of the City of Medicine Hat website.
- Accessibility Tips handout was developed by ACDI and the Safety Codes Officers.
- ACDI continues to consult with Parks and Recreation on the creation of an accessible boat launch.

Advocating for Accessibility and Inclusion in the Community

- Members of ACDI assisted with the planning and implementation of the International Day for People with Disabilities (IDPD) at both Mother Teresa School and the Family Leisure Centre.
- "Accessible Medicine Hat" and "Words with Dignity" bookmarks continue to be distributed to the public.
- ACDI members participated in both the Adult Resource Fair and Great West Home & Leisure Fall Trade Show where they conducted an Accessible Housing survey. The survey was developed to identify the extent and need for accessible and visitable homes.
- Letters of support were written for The City of Medicine Hat's Applications to:
 - New Horizons Seniors Program – Community-based Projects (to create hearing accessibility in the City's Seniors Centers) and for a
 - Community Facility Enhancement Program Application for Accessibility Improvements at the Police Point Interpretive Centre.
- ACDI worked with Emergency Management staff to host an Emergency Preparedness Workshop for agencies dealing with vulnerable populations.
- ACDI responded to a request for support from the Library to advise on sidewalk navigation for people with low vision. Suggestions were implemented.
- ACDI sent a letter to the Director of Motor Vehicles requesting greater clarity on the Service Alberta website around the purpose of the accessible parking placard registration cards.
- ACDI worked with MH News, Bylaw Officer and the Canalta Centre to increase public awareness of the appropriate use of accessible parking placards. These solutions for increasing accessible parking at Canalta, were implemented in 2016.
- ACDI printed more Sidewalk Safety postcards outlining the steps the public can take to keep sidewalks safe year round for everyone.
- ACDI members shared accessibility and inclusion information by participating in Open Houses and online surveys including:

- The Brier Run Open House
 - Midi Bus Trial
 - The Government of Canada's consultation on new accessibility legislation
- ACIDI produced a "Disability Awareness" poster showing someone with a disability as a multifaceted individual. Posters will be distributed in local schools.