

ACDI 2017 – A Year in Review

Committed to a Strong Committee

- Developed, monitored and achieved the 2017 ACDI Goals.

Pursuing an Understanding of Progress, Processes & Opportunities

- Maureen Mudry, Manager of Parks Planning & Development, and Donna Merkl, Special Projects Co-ordinator, provided an update on accessibility upgrades of our City Parks and Recreation facilities. They also noted that input from ACDI audits was helpful in their decision making process.
- Simon Amos, Manager of Community Access gave an update on the status of the reversion back to the previous Transit system and talked about consulting with ACDI in the future as they look to find ways to bring greater efficiency to the Special Transit System.

Achieving Accessibility and Inclusion by Working with Departments

- Worked with the Municipal Works Department to review, recommend and prioritize accessibility improvements on 8th Avenue SE from South Railway Street to Spencer Street and on 12th Street NW from Division Avenue to the Brier Park Road.
- Offered the opportunity to experience cross slope from a wheelchair and talk with ACDI members who use a wheelchair or are blind about other common hazards/challenges for people with disabilities in navigating our sidewalks. Staff from Municipal Works, Parks and Recreation, and Planning & Development participated and then conferred together about possibilities.
- Accessibility audits of the Lions Park Ball Diamond washrooms/change rooms, The Strathcona Center change rooms, and Kin Coulee Park were carried out by ACDI. Resulting Accessibility audits were provided by staff as completed.

Advocating for Accessibility and Inclusion in the Community

- Following consultation with staff in Land and Properties, Planning and Building, and the Canadian Home Builders Association; an Accessible Housing Tour was offered to allow home builders to see the space someone in a wheelchair needs to manoeuvre, to ask questions about what works in practice, and discuss the accessibility needs of an aging population. The results of ACDI's Accessible Housing Survey and the changing demographics were also provided.

- ACDI considered and discussed the Government of Canada's Consultation on New Accessibility Legislation. Legislation flowing from this consultation will help form the template for making all federal government facilities accessible and may ultimately lead to enhanced federal legislation and guidelines with respect to accessibility for all situations, government or otherwise.
- REDI was invited to share the successes and challenges clients with developmental disabilities experience in interacting with city infrastructure, services and programs.
- ACDI worked with Emergency Management department staff to host an Emergency Preparedness Workshop for agencies working with vulnerable populations.
- ACDI produced and distributed "I am Sarah" a disability awareness poster aimed at increasing public awareness of people with a disabilities as being more than their disability. The poster was delivered to all local schools, City recreation facilities and throughout the community.
- Members of ACDI assisted with the planning and implementation of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) at the Ross Glen School.
- ACDI worked with the Public Library to organize and host an accessibility celebration of the newly renovated theater and the inauguration of the City's first hearing loop. The event showcased the hearing loop, providing support for use and while open to the public, the marketing particularly targeted impacted populations and hearing aid practitioners.
- "Sidewalk Safety" and "Did You Know" information cards and "Accessible Medicine Hat" bookmarks continue to be distributed to the public to help enhance public awareness of disability issues and problem solutions.
- ACDI worked with REDI to organize and host two Registered Disability Savings Plan information sessions presented by the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD).