

Township of McMurrich/Monteith

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2025

Schedule A to By-law # 24-2025

June 3, 2025



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1.0 MUNICIPAL JURISDICTION PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN

MUNICIPALITY: Township of McMurrich/Monteith
ADDRESS: 31 Wiliam Street
Sprucedale, Ontario
P0A 1Y0

KEY CONTACT: Cheryl Marshall, Clerk/Treasurer

PHONE: (705)685-7901

FAX: (705)685-7393

EMAIL: clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com

POPULATION: 907 (StatsCan 2021)

2.0 TOWNSHIP OF MCMURRICH/MONTEITH PROFILE

The Corporation of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith is a rural municipality located in the southwestern portion of the District of Parry Sound, west of Highway 11. The township is bordered on the north by the Township of Ryerson, on the west by Township of Seguin, on the east by the Township of Perry and the south border is shared with the Town of Huntsville and the Township of Muskoka Lakes. Secondary Highway 518 runs through the township, while the remainder of the municipality is accessed by 134 kilometres of township maintained roads. There are several picturesque lakes including Doe Lake, Round Lake, Buck Lake, Bear Lake, Axe Lake and Horn Lake, which are located in the township. The municipality provides public access to the area lakes. The Township of McMurrich/Monteith is truly rural in nature, with three defined villages or settlement areas, Sprucedale, Whitehall and Bear Lake. All existing developments are on private water and septic systems. Municipally owned facilities include: the Township Office/Fire Hall and Sprucedale Community Centre both located at 31 William Street, Public Works Garage located at 2455 Highway 518 West.

3.0 CONSULTATION

3.1 Target Group: The general public and municipal staff/volunteers/Council

3.2 Summary of Information Collected through Consultation: Council and staff of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith, on an ongoing basis, identify, and prevent future barriers to people with disabilities when certain policies are implemented and when issues and concerns arise. The Township is not required to have an accessibility advisory committee, however consultation with people with disabilities provides an opportunity to provide feedback and helps us stay aware of the needs of people with disabilities.

3.3 Plan Development Working Group: Staff members constitute the working group with review and input from the Municipal Council of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith. This plan has been compiled using their personal experiences and experiences shared with them from the residents of the township. The Corporation of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith is committed to providing quality programs and services that are accessible to all persons served by the municipality.

4.0 AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

Copies of this Plan and the Accessible Customer Service Policy are available from the Township Office or on the website.

Inquiries can be directed to the Township Office:

Phone: 705-685-7901

Fax: 705-685-7393

E-mail: clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com

Mail: P.O. Box 70, 31 William Street
Sprucedale, Ontario P0A 1Y0

5.0 INITIATIVE

Council and staff of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith have reviewed the current status of all buildings owned and operated by the municipality and the general policies and procedures of the municipality in order to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities. This is an on-going procedure to continue to monitor facilities and procedures to prevent future barriers to people with disabilities.

The Township of McMurrich/Monteith has an adopted Official Plan and has included information regarding accessibility. Residents with mobility and visual disabilities and internally with employees and members of the municipal council with hearing impairment visual impairment and also mobility challenges have outlined concerns. During this planning process, council and staff will consider barriers for people with disabilities.

6.0 OPERATIONAL REVIEW

6.1 Township of McMurrich/Monteith Municipal Office and Fire Hall, 31 William Street, Sprucedale, Ontario P0A 1Y0

The building consists of a council room, municipal office, kitchen/storage, washroom and the Fire Department Hall and offices. The office building/council room are on ground level. The parking lot is gravel and there is a sidewalk for public access to the front entrance doors to the office/council room portion of the building. There are designated handicap parking spots. In addition, many parking spaces are available for easy access to and from vehicles and the building. There is an automatic door opener on the front door to the municipal office and council room.

The Township of McMurrich/Monteith is a very small rural municipality with few public buildings. Over the years staff have courteously provided goods and services to all the public, providing individual assistance to those with disabilities when the need arises.

- The municipal web site does offer assistive devices – Website has been updated to WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards.

6.2 Sprucedale Community Centre/Outdoor Rink, 31 William Street, Sprucedale, Ontario P0A 1Y0

The building consists of a large meeting room with fully functional kitchen and washrooms. The front and back entrance doors are equipped with automatic doors as are the washroom doors. There is an attached outdoor rink and change room building

7.0 MULTI-YEAR PLAN 2025 AND BEYOND

- The Township will continue to monitor and make improvements where necessary to the policies and actions outlined in this Plan.
- The Township will continue to consult with persons with disabilities.
- The Township will continue to allocate resources as needed.
- The Township will include accessibility considerations in planning documents

From previous years:

This Accessibility Plan outlines the policies and actions that the Township of McMurrich/Monteith currently has, and will put in place to improve opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Township of McMurrich/Monteith is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The Township of McMurrich/Monteith is committed to providing the customers and clients with publicly available emergency information in an accessible way upon request. We will also provide employees with disabilities with individualized emergency response information when necessary.

The Township of McMurrich/Monteith provides training to employees, volunteers and other staff members on Ontario's Accessibility laws and on the Human Rights Code as it relates to people with disabilities. Training is provided in a way that best suits the duties of the employees, volunteers and other staff members.

The Multi-Year Plan is based on the requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The AODA sets out the roadmap for an accessible Ontario by 2021. It contains standards in the following five areas:

1. Customer Service
2. Information and Communications
3. Employment
4. Transportation
5. Built Environment

Timeline and Deliverables

Outcomes:

- People with disabilities will have access to accessible services
- People with disabilities will have access to alternate formats and communication supports
- A barrier-free recruitment process
- Greater accessibility in Township owned facilities Approach:
- Develop policies and procedures
- Incorporate accessibility into planning processes
- Train staff
- Engage the public in feedback
- Work to remove barriers to employment
- Continue to make facilities accessible
- Ensure there is access to information and communications
- Accessibility policies and plans developed and maintained (AODA) O. Reg. 191/11 (Section 3 & 4)
- Procurement of goods and services or facilities (O. Reg. 191/11 Section 5): Refer to Procurement By-law 28-24 Section 2(b) Accessibility
- Self-Serve kiosk (O. Reg. 191/11) Section 6) is not practicable in this small rural municipality with limited facilities and services
- On-going staff training
- New web sites and web content in an accessible format (O. Reg. 191/11 Section 14): addressed on an ongoing basis concurrent with changes to technology
- Customer Service: on-going training as required; maintenance of policies and plans; continue to review feedback processes; continue to provide and improve accessible formats and communication supports
- Ensure documents available in an alternate format upon request

- **Employment:** understand employer obligations to provide employment accommodations; identify and remove barriers in the workplace
- **Transportation:** The majority of the Transportation Standard does not apply to the Township of McMurrich/Monteith because the Township does not have a public transit system and does not issue taxi licences at this time
- **Built Environment:** comply with Provincial requirements; The Township of McMurrich/Monteith will meet accessibility standards for design of public spaces when building or making major modifications to public spaces
- **Information and Communication Standard:** Will meet accessible websites and content requirements: In late 2020, staff issued an RFP for a website design consultant, to build a new website in compliance with the WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards.
- The Accessibility Plan is on the website and noted in the semi-annual municipal newsletter.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Township of McMurrich/Monteith is committed to addressing existing barriers and preventing future barriers to allow people with disabilities full participation in our community. The Township of McMurrich/Monteith encourages input from all residents.

The financial impact of the AODA legislation is significant on municipal taxpayers, especially in this small, rural municipality with limited financial resources. It is the intent of McMurrich/Monteith Township to support the implementation of these most important regulations and would certainly take advantage of any Provincial initiatives in the provision of financial assistance to meet the requirements of the AODA.

For more information see:

SCHEDULE B: Customer Service Policy

SCHEDULE C: Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation Policy