



TOWN POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY:

Accessibility Policy

POLICY NUMBER: A-50

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2020-161

ADOPTED: July 14, 2020

Policy Statement:

Accessibility is fundamental to the quality of life, well-being, and engagement of individuals with disabilities in the social, economic, cultural, spiritual and political aspects of society.

The Town of Cardston is committed to pursuing an environment that provides the greatest level of access, participation, and opportunities to contribute for people with disabilities within our community. Barriers to this environment may include attitudinal, systemic, physical, communication, and technology.

The Town of Cardston aims to achieve this objective through reasonable efforts by making accessibility a point of consideration in its new and ongoing efforts involving:

- policy review and creation;
- civic engagement;
- programs and services;
- employee services;
- communications;
- technology investment;
- infrastructure maintenance and development;

and implementing strategies to create equal access for all people.

The purpose of this policy is to:

Increase the importance of accessibility planning and considerations within the Town of Cardston and provide guiding principles that should be considered by Town employees when performing the actions stated in the policy statement.

Principles

The Town of Cardston will endeavor to be aligned with the principles contained in section 6 within the *Accessible Canada Act*. The principles acknowledge that barriers to accessibility are the basis of inequality between people with and without disabilities. The principles are meant to promote and protect:





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- inherent dignity;
- equal opportunity;
- barrier-free government;
- autonomy;
- inclusive design; and
- meaningful involvement.

As the Town of Cardston pursues new capital projects and or retrofits, it will as much as possible within the budgetary and funding constraints of the time, be committed to the internationally recognized principles of Universal Design, which are founded on the philosophy that accessibility is a fundamental condition of good design. An environment, program, service, engagement, communication and technology that is accessible, usable, convenient and a pleasure to use, benefits everyone. The seven principles include:

- **Equitable Use:** useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- **Flexibility in Use:** accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- **Simple and Intuitive Use:** easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
- **Perceptible Information:** communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- **Tolerance for Error:** minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- **Low Physical Effort:** can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimal fatigue.
- **Size and Pace for Approach and Use:** appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use.

