



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Media Advisory

October 12, 2021

For Immediate Release: Survey to Guide Creation of Kings County Accessibility Plan

COLDBROOK, N.S. - The Municipality of the County of Kings and the Villages of Aylesford, Canning, Cornwallis Square, Greenwood, Kingston, New Minas and Port Williams want to ensure all area residents have fair and appropriate access to Municipal and Village services.

From October 12 to November 12, we are inviting residents to share their feedback on accessibility in the Municipality and Villages to identify what works, what doesn't, and how things can be improved. These community insights will be used to help shape the creation of an Accessibility Plan for the Municipality and the Villages. This plan is due to be completed by April 1, 2022.

This Accessibility Plan will be the first of its kind for the Municipality and the Villages, and will be used to shape decision-making for improving access to services, transportation, buildings, sidewalks, parks, trails, and other infrastructure owned or operated by the Municipality, the Villages, and the Kings Transit Authority.

“For us to improve accessibility in our communities, it's very important that we hear from those residents who are facing accessibility challenges, and their families, so we can address the issues they experience directly,” says Peter Muttart, Mayor of the Municipality of the County of Kings. “This engagement process has been designed to provide multiple opportunities for the public to share their insights and experience, and to provide practical direction for meeting the needs of those who are living with disabilities.”

The Municipality and the Villages have formed a Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee, which is tasked with providing advice to Municipal Council and the Village Commissions on identifying, preventing and eliminating barriers to access faced by people living with disabilities in Municipal and Village programs, services, initiatives and facilities. This volunteer group meets monthly, and includes individuals who are living with disabilities, those who work with those living with disabilities, and members of Municipality Council and the Village Commissions.

Phone: 902-678-6141 or 1-888-337-2999
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
inquiry@countyofkings.ca

181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive,
Coldbrook, NS B43 1B9

“The creation of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee has provided a welcome voice for those residents of the Municipality who are living with disabilities,” says Committee Chair, Mary Fox. “We look forward to playing an integral role in ensuring the Accessibility Plan meets the needs of our disabled residents, and ultimately contributes to a brighter future for all residents of the Municipality.”

The Accessibility Plan engagement process was launched in September 2021 and will conclude in April 2022. The Municipality and the Villages have engaged the services of Intelligent Futures to assist with this process. As much as possible, engagement opportunities have been organized to respect the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first phase of engagement runs from now until November 12, 2021, and includes an online survey, interviews and stakeholder meetings, as well as community workshops and presentations. The second phase will take place from mid-November 2021 to the end of January 2022, offering a chance for the project team to check back with the community to ensure their insights have been captured effectively.

The final Plan will be presented to the Municipality of the County of Kings at a Council meeting this spring.

During this initial phase of engagement, community members can learn more and share their feedback:

- By completing an online survey available until November 12 at countyofkings.ca/accessibility
- By participating in user experience interviews or pop-up events being conducted between October 24 to 27
- By signing up to receive occasional project updates by email
- By sending questions or comments to the project team: [\(accessibility@countyofkings.ca\)](mailto:accessibility@countyofkings.ca)

The project team will also be inviting representatives from the disability community to attend facilitated workshops that will use a collaborative and supportive format to explore the challenges their membership is facing. Individuals experiencing accessibility challenges, as well as those involved in the disability community, are invited to complete the survey at countyofkings.ca/accessibility. The survey will generate feedback on the types of accessibility issues currently facing area residents, and will identify opportunities for community groups and individuals to work together in overcoming these challenges.

Contact:

Ashley Thompson
Communications Specialist
Municipality of the County of Kings
athompson@countyofkings.ca

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