



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1
905-563-8205

February 7, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford:

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Requesting Funding to Ensure Compliance with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA)

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on February 5, 2024, passed the following motion regarding Requesting Funding to Ensure Compliance with *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*:

Resolution No: RC-2024-13
Moved by Councillor Dianne Rintjema; Seconded by Mayor Easton

WHEREAS the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* ("AODA") strives to create a more accessible Ontario for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS businesses play a crucial role in fostering inclusivity and accessibility for all members of society; and

WHEREAS financial support is essential for businesses to meet the requirements outlined by the AODA and enhance accessibility measures and attract these potential customers by removing as many access barriers as possible; and

WHEREAS over 6.2 million Canadians live with a disability and an estimated \$25 billion in annual consumer buying in Canada; and

WHEREAS over 90,000 people with disabilities live in the Niagara area; and

WHEREAS the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee advocates and represents persons with disabilities for Niagara area municipalities for the Town of Lincoln,

Township of West Lincoln, Town of Pelham, City of Thorold, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Town of Grimsby and City of Port Colborne.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CORPORATION FOR THE TOWN OF LINCOLN COUNCIL URGES THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Acknowledge the significance of businesses in fostering an inclusive environment as per the AODA.
2. Recognize the financial implications and challenges faced by businesses in implementing AODA compliance measures, as it is imperative to allocate funding to support these endeavors.
3. Allocate a specific fund dedicated to assisting businesses in Ontario to meet AODA standards, ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
4. Consider establishing funding for the diverse business size and sectors, providing financial aid, resources, and guidance necessary to comply with AODA regulations.
5. Ensure that regular evaluations and assessments of the fund's efficacy are conducted to ensure its optimal utilization and address any emerging needs or challenges.
6. Collaborate with municipalities, accessibility and disability experts and advocates, and local business associations should be fostered to develop comprehensive strategies for effective allocation and utilization of the fund.
7. Create public awareness campaigns to inform businesses about the availability of these funds and the importance of AODA compliance.
8. Commit to ongoing support and continuous improvement of accessibility measures, working in tandem with businesses and disability advocates.

This resolution emphasizes the importance of fostering an inclusive environment and ensuring that businesses have the necessary resources to comply with the AODA to contribute to a more accessible Ontario for all.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Provincial government takes action to allocate funding that is dedicated to supporting businesses in achieving compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, enhancing accessibility and inclusivity across Ontario.

CARRIED

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

Cc: Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Township of West Lincoln
Town of Pelham
City of Thorold
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Town of Grimsby
City of Port Colborne