

## **Haida Gwaii Accessibility Committee – Actions – April 3, 2024**

### Employment

- Exploring remote work options and flexible scheduling, including breaks, at municipalities;
- Examining the accessibility of municipal and business buildings, including room layout and technologies such as magnifying screens;
- Examining accessible paths into municipal and business buildings, including sidewalks and curb let downs;
- Determining accessibility-related barriers to holding municipal office;
- Considering how jobs are posted and whether it excludes those with accessibility issues;
- Considering/accommodate advancement opportunities/training for people with intellectual/learning disabilities at municipalities;
- Examining whether there is pay inequality for those with accessibility issues and consider equal pay policies at municipalities; and
- Examining sheltered/supported employment.

### Delivery of Service

- Exploring accessibility of the North Coast Regional District (NCRD's) recycling program using Universal Design and review list of items that are currently not accepted;
- Examining community recycling bins, including for cardboard;
- Considering bringing back community clean-up days where a centrally located dumpster was placed in some communities once a year; and
- Improving communication on what can be brought to various recycling and waste facilities on Haida Gwaii; and
- Considering accessibility needs during events.

### The Built Environment

- Exploring the accessibility of public bathrooms for residents and visitors, including wheelchairs, handrails, and adult changing tables in all Haida Gwaii communities;
- Reviewing accessibility of pathways leading to the beach in Daajing Giids and Sandspit;
- Reviewing waterfront access in Haida Gwaii;
- Surveying the accessibility of civic facilities, including ramps and playgrounds;

- Reviewing accessibility of downtown Daajing Giids, including sidewalks, shoulders, separate lanes, and street lighting. Considering dangerous sidewalk edges, barriers to oncoming traffic and the lack of ways to cross roads safely, for both pedestrians and cyclists;
- Reviewing accessibility of Masset sidewalk conditions and the lack of sidewalks in Port Clements and Sandspit;
- Advocating for safe and affordable housing for those with disabilities;
- Exploring raising funds towards accessibility from Airbnb properties;
- Developing places to rest, including benches along road ways and picnic tables (considering a longer end for wheelchair accessibility, on a concrete slab);
- Highlighting the Tow Hill boardwalk and Misty Meadows pathway as good accessible examples;
- Working with Accessible Haida Gwaii representatives to highlight other positive accessibility examples;
- Advocating for automatic doors at the City Centre store in Daajing Giids as well as libraries on Haida Gwaii;
- Considering wheelchair access and signage, including at event spaces on Haida Gwaii;
- Advocating for improved accessibility for BC Ferries' Kwuna Ferry, including a waiting room, bathroom access, and better ramps for people with mobility issues;
- Exploring accessibility upgrades at the Tlell Firehall, including access to the building, access to the downstairs bathroom, and access to the upstairs room (which is often used for community meetings);
- Exploring accessibility of outhouse at the Tlell Farmers' Market;
- Exploring accessibility of Tlell soccer field;
- Advocating for travel accessibility, including accessible hotel / motel rooms (including walk in showers), airport capacity to move wheelchairs, and accessible vehicle and medical equipment rentals;
- Advocating for improved accessibility of Tow Hill road's Sangan bridge; and
- Creating, advocating, or partnering with municipalities to create warming spaces during the winter months.

### Information and Communications

- Advocating for the creation of an online resource that lists event spaces for rent, including accessibility options;
- Advocating for the creation of an online calendar that lists community events and recreation opportunities, including accessibility options;
- Upgrading municipal websites to WCAG 2 accessibility standard;

- Exploring funding options to improve business accessibility;
- Make all meetings accessible via Zoom for municipalities and advocate for other agencies to do the same;
- Improving communication on events, public notices, and consider other forms of communication including poster boards at grocery stores and post office, mail outs, and telephone calls; and
- Sharing immediate steps all Haida Gwaii organizations can take to improve accessibility.

### Transportation

- Planning for emergency evacuation, taking into account tsunamis, for people with disabilities;
- Exploring accessible transportation options between communities, including for seniors;
- Advocating for an island wide shuttle that takes people to the airport, tourist attractions, and events;
- Advocating for a trail between Skidegate and Daajing Giids;
- Advocating for school buses to be accessible;
- Assessing municipal trail, sidewalk, and public washroom accessibility;
- Advocating for creation of a library of accessible items, such as wheelchairs;
- Educating the public on transportation issues relating to accessibility;
- Advocating for improved accessibility for BC Ferries' routes 10, 11, and 26, including a waiting room, bathroom access, and better ramps for people with mobility issues;
- Working with BC Ferries to improve accessibility and invite BC Ferries as a delegation to a future HGAC meeting;
- Advocating for improved accessibility on BC Ferries routes, including consistent availability of accessibility options, including elevator access;
- Advocating for a portion of Tarundl Trail to be accessible;
- Advocating for more accessible bus stops and train stations, including timed heaters during winter months; and
- Reviewing accessibility of trails in Sandspit, including Dover Trail.

### Procurement

- Exploring the accessibility / inclusive play of playgrounds by enlisting the support of professionals such as occupational therapists and ensure budget to support this expense. Examine support for applying for grants and research in overcoming barriers to build playgrounds;

- Including accessibility as a mandatory factor in purchasing policies, which should include a clear set of accessibility guidelines;
- Ensuring transparency in procurement processes, such as bidding for municipality work, and enhance communication of procurement opportunities;
- Seeking the expertise of disabled people and consider developing policies that require consulting an accessibility consultant; and
- Learning from organizations that have experience with accessibility.