



# ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2024 - 2026

Town of Grand Falls-Windsor



John Walsh – B.A., B.A. Ed., M.Ed.  
Principal Consultant  
JW Consulting Associates  
11 Wembley Crescent  
Mount Pearl, NL, A1N 4T8  
(709) 728-8414 (cell)  
Email: [cet@nl.rogers.com](mailto:cet@nl.rogers.com)



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## 1.0 Statement of Commitment

The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor Council is committed to increasing accessibility and Inclusion in the municipality. This will be achieved by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers that may exist in services, programs, or operations so that the town can be more accessible and inclusive. Ultimately, Council wants to make Grand Falls-Windsor accessible to everyone and will look for guidance from a diverse group of people to provide advice and recommendations on accessibility and inclusion, so that the removal and prevention of barriers is accomplished.

## 2.0 Accessibility Goals

The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has already undertaken many initiatives to make the town more accessible and more inclusive over the past several years, which shows the commitment for improvement, but they recognize there will always be more that needs to be done.

Here is a list of existing initiatives completed:

- Automated doors installed at many facilities, such as the Town Hall, Joe Memorial Byrne Stadium, Windsor Stadium, Corduroy Brook Nature Centre Building, Exploits Nordic Ski Club Building, Heritage Society Building, Excite Building, and at the YMCA.
- Wheelchair accessible parking spaces at both Stadiums and Church Road Park.
- Installed new apparatus and other playground equipment to make the parks, playgrounds, and tot lots more accessible for everyone to enjoy.
- Installed truncated domes at the busy crosswalk of Cromer Avenue and Pinsent Drive to assist the visually impaired.
- There are wheelchair lifts in both the Town Hall and Joe Byrne Stadium.
- Installed a fully paved walkway around the Sutherland Drive playground to help anyone with mobility challenges.
- Installed wheelchair spectator space at both Stadiums.
- The Town supported easy access walking trails installed around the Corduroy Brook.
- Maintain walking trails around Shanawdithit Centennial Field and Church Road Park for residents to enjoy
- The Town is always reviewing events and recreational activities from an accessibility lens whenever possible.
- Working with seniors to make sure the senior events are accessible to all, as we offer senior gymnastics, skating and a Senior fair.
- Provides accessible parking locations at all special events.

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Towards improving “inclusion”:

- In support of the LBGTQ+ community, Council approved a “Rainbow Crosswalk” in front of the Town Hall that represents inclusivity.
- In support of the Indigenous community the town approved a “7 feathers” crosswalk adjacent to the museum that represents Truth and Reconciliation for all.
- The Town Hall is lit up in a variety of colors on special occasions to show support for different groups and causes throughout the year.
- Supports “flag raising” ceremonies for various causes.
- Announces Proclamations before public Council meetings to support multiple causes.
- Grand Falls–Windsor is known for their Special Olympians, and the Town offers many programs and supports to them.
- Partnered with the “Association of New Canadians” and meet with them regularly as a Committee along with The College of the North Atlantic (CNA), and the Department of Immigration Population Growth & Skills.
- Welcomes newcomers by hosting social and cultural events, such as celebrating Diwali and supporting sports like cricket.
- Supports research about student housing and transportation needs, currently being further researched by a group of CNA international students.
- Incorporated “moderated start time” for special events, which starts before the actual start time to allow individuals with all types of disabilities to have access to special events earlier before crowds become too large and to avoid long lines and overcrowding.
- Encourages parents of children with challenges to review the event sites beforehand to suggest ways to overcome highlighted challenges and correct any barriers that may be in place.
- Partitioned off an area at the Salmon Festival concert to accommodate anyone in a wheelchair.
- Co-sponsored “Pride Day” at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium and provided support with the sound system and opening ceremonies.
- Bocci courts are open all summer and fall for Special Olympics participants.
- Visits various senior’s homes to play bingo and socialize with them.

# DISABILITY

isn’t contagious – IGNORANCE is

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- Provides cordless headsets that connects to the PA system for anyone that is hearing impaired at special events.
  - Offers sledge skating at both stadiums for anyone with mobility issues.
  - Maintains Shanawdithit Centennial Field and ski trails for the Special Olympics Winter Games.
  - Provide an over ice floor for the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium to allow chairs and a wheelchair area for the Special Olympics winter games; and sponsored a dance for participants.

#### Digital Accommodations:

- Social media have photos, graphics, and alternative text, and those that include videos are closed captioned for the hearing impaired.
- Public Council meetings are broadcast live by Rogers TV and are also available on the town's YouTube channel.
- The town website has been made more accessible with the following features:
  - Can be viewed via keyboard and assistive devices like screen readers.
  - Video is embedded using accessible players and images have alternative text.
  - Text is never too small and has proper contrast with background images and page colors.
  - Landmark arias can be used for users on assistive devices, so they understand that they understand the context of different sections (navigation component versus page content).
  - Navigation can be used by anyone on any device.
  - Content is structured properly with ascending heading tags.
- The town's "Voyent Alert" notification system offers a variety of ways for users to get notified, including mobile app notifications, text/SMS alerting, email and voice calling. Users can pick whichever notification method works best for them or use all modes to get notified.

#### New Initiatives Going Forward

- Install an accessibility kayak boat launch at Gorge Park.
- Install a new wheelchair lift at the Town Hall.
- Add ramp to the gazebo at Gorge Park
- Replace or remove the paved walkway at Church Road Park to better accommodate people with mobility issues.
- Make the public more aware of issues of accessibility and inclusion, by sharing information, building awareness, and identifying removing and preventing barriers within Grand Falls-Windsor.
- Support the Accessibility Advisory Committee that is set up from among a diverse variety of individuals with lived experience of disabilities, indigenous members, pride community members, multi-cultural community or any other barrier of accessibility or inclusion.

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- Commit to ongoing learning activities for members of Council and the Accessibility Advisory Committee and offer opportunities to learn more about accessibility issues for the public.
  - Ensure all future recreational facilities and playgrounds are accessible in Grand Falls – Windsor.
  - Bring focus to ensuring commercial buildings and developments are more accessible going forward.
  - Share the Town’s Accessibility Plan with taxpayers and take every opportunity to proudly show the Town’s commitment to accessibility.
  - Provide recognition for those that take steps into acknowledging barriers and fixing them.
  - Develop surveys for residents to get an idea of how many people reside in Grand Falls-Windsor with a disability as it may help with receiving available funding. Also, a survey for ideas of how to make Grand Falls -Windsor more accessible and inclusive.

#### Suggestions from the Public Consultation

- The Nordic Ski lodge building is currently only partially accessible.
- The most cost-efficient way to build anything relating to accessibility is to do it right the first time – it may cost a little more, but an accessible and inclusive community benefits everyone.
- Many local businesses are hard to move around in because the aisles are cluttered and too tight.
- Who to contact if you have an accessibility issue – the province or the municipality – The Town Development staff will accept complaints and inquiries and make sure the province is aware of the situation. Ultimately the Province has responsibility for accessibility requirements.
- The ramp at the Salmonid Interpretation Centre going to Salmon River is unsafe as it is too steep.
- The YMCA has restrictions when going to the pool because it is not accessible; and the pool ramp needs to be looked at for “safety and accessibility”.
- How many people are in wheelchairs in the town? This could be the work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to determine, as it could affect funding and other financial support.
- Public transit is a problem, for the accessible community especially.
- “Why are so many commercial buildings in town not accessible?”.
- Suggested that someone in a wheelchair should be involved in inspections for accessibility because unless you have that “lived experience” you would not know.
- Some wheelchair “push buttons” in public buildings are routinely not turned on.
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee could highlight businesses that are accessible if the approach accessibility proactively; that might encourage others to upgrade and be compliant.

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- Council must “raise awareness” about accessibility, in general; for example - service dogs were initially used primarily to assist those with visual impairments, now there are “service dogs used for emotional support (like PTSD).
  - Has the town thought about building a facility specifically for activities for those with special needs?
  - Activities are needed to stimulate people with special needs; socialization is a big part of this especially for our aging adults and for “shut-ins”.
  - More wheelchair spaces are needed around town.
  - More enforcement for accessible parking is needed in the town.
  - A participant asked why buildings built before 1980 don’t need to be accessible? The Town responded that the province is responsible for accessibility regulations on new development, and these regulations apply to new construction and major renovations are based on percentage of renovations being undertaken.
  - When a building is sold - the new owners don’t need to make it accessible; this is a problem for the accessible community; maybe Council could review this.
  - Grand Falls-Windsor needs to “raise awareness” about accessibility, by taking every opportunity through social media and when speaking at functions (youth activities, Citizen of the Year banquet, Fireman’s Ball).
  - Provide sign language if there is anyone on the Accessibility Advisory Committee or at a public hearing that is deaf, as that would remove a big barrier for them.

## 3.0 Barriers to Accessibility

In Grand Falls-Windsor there are still barriers to accessibility that have been identified.

### Physical Barriers

Physical barriers are more easily identified, and there is still work to be done within the business community to “raise awareness” and to make the commercial facilities in Grand Falls-Windsor more accessible. The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor is committed to working with the business community in the town to help ensure businesses within Grand Falls-Windsor become more accessible.

Financial Barriers - Compared to many other municipalities across Newfoundland and Labrador, Grand Falls-Windsor is doing well financially and are “living within their means”. Finding discretionary spending for other things like accessibility can be challenging even for a town like Grand Falls-Windsor, especially with so many other needs at the forefront vying for the same funding. As important as accessibility and inclusion is to Council, it can sometimes be difficult to divest funds towards these projects. There are so many needs and demands among taxpayers of the town, and there is only a limited amount of money to go around.



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Grand Falls – Windsor’s Town Council are always reluctant to increase taxes, even though operational costs are rising and completing projects for accessibility can sometimes be costly. That is where “raising awareness” about issues of accessibility becomes so important. Council needs to be aware of issues with accessibility and inclusion so that they can budget and try to find funding where possible. While “accessibility” presents barriers to a small percentage of our population, it says something about the “inclusive” nature of our society when these barriers “are” removed. A fully accessible and inclusive Grand Falls-Windsor is the goal.

Human Resources - The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor has a limited number of staff available at any given time. Even when staff are on annual leave currently, there are usually no replacements for them to complete their work while they’re on vacation. Only emergency services (like garbage collection) are continued. The work is usually just left to face employees upon their return or others have to “pick up the slack” for shorter periods of time. Certain things will be done – but certainly not everything. But it is difficult, because staffing levels are normally at “bare bones” already. Some communities have special interest groups and municipal departments to undertake certain new initiatives and to give it the attention it deserves. The irony is that quite often smaller municipalities have to do the same things as larger municipalities (in order to be compliant) – but they have to do so with much smaller staffing allocations. So, staffing or human resource restrictions are definitely a barrier to accessibility.

Public Engagement - Getting the public to engage in issues of accessibility & inclusion, especially persons who do not want to identify as having a disability, can be challenging. But the public needs to be engaged. The public needs to be more aware of challenges relating to accessibility and inclusion – not just staff, or the advisory Committee, or members of Council – everyone. This is a problem for all municipalities – not just Grand Falls-Windsor. But it is even more challenging in smaller towns where most people know one another – where names and families are more entrenched. An example would be the stigma associated with a person living with a mental health issue or having an intellectual or cognitive challenge. While these conditions are more difficult to recognize, this normally creates its own challenge. Some disabilities are harder to detect, and these are challenging for everyone to address, as a result. Even coming forward to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee can be an example of this. While some people’s participation on the Committee may be obvious – others may be less obvious.

Communication - There are segments of our municipal population with hearing issues or visual impairments. People with visual impairments may not be able to read information on the town website, for example, or even be able to read their tax invoices. Many people have hearing challenges - especially in large crowds or crowded rooms where there is a lot of chatter or peripheral noise (even those with hearing aids). These are important barriers that need to be considered by Council, because there are definite communication barriers, and they even exist with most social media devices and tools and on most social media platforms. People sometimes can’t communicate well for various reasons, and this can present a problem for Council and other public bodies.

**BUILDING** minds  
building **FUTURES**

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## 4.0 Focus Areas

- Focus areas often change year to year. The primary area of focus for the town of Grand Falls-Windsor's Accessibility Plan for the next several years will be to make Council and the general public more aware of issues, concerns, and barriers of accessibility and inclusion within the town. Simply put – to raise awareness. Raising awareness among the public is always a great place to start. Raising awareness among residents and the general public will require a big commitment of time, energy, and resources. The education of Council, the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and the general public will be an ongoing process, but with a full commitment from Council this can and will be achieved, over time.
- Council will make a proclamation declaring that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor is committed to being an accessible community dedicated to establishing and implementing principles of accessibility and inclusion in everything they do.
- It is a commitment of the Town that over time barriers that currently exist will be removed and preventative measures will be made so that barriers of accessibility are not established in the future, and there will be consideration of accessibility and inclusion relating to outside Committees of Council, volunteering with the Town, working with the town as well as hiring of new employees (where practical).
- Involve staff in the development of accessibility and inclusion efforts, as employees can help identify specific budget items required in implementing the plan in various areas of programs, operations, and services. These budget recommendations can be provided through a Committee meeting so they can be considered for implementation by Council. Some larger projects may take years to implement while others can be implemented immediately, it depends on what the initiative is and the cost.
- Make it a priority to ensure physical accommodations, healthcare facilities and clinics are available and fully accessible in the community for anyone with a disability or restriction.

## 5.0 Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will be initiated by an expression of interest that is an open call for participation on the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Respondents will be selected by Council to serve for a period of up to 3 years. The Committee will be an advisory committee, meaning they can put forth advice and recommendations that may or may not be funded by Council. Committee members are selected because they are considered experts in fields of accessibility and inclusion. Council will attempt to appoint Committee members that are intended to broadly represent the accessibility and inclusion community.

This Committee will consist of a member of Council, a staff member, and 7-10 individuals with lived experience. These diverse individuals will be a variety of people that have experience with physical disabilities or mobility issues, visual impairments, hearing impairments, members of the LGBTQ+ community, member of an indigenous groups, mental or emotional issues, intellectual disabilities, or

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other individuals with accessibility issues. Other individuals that may be considered for representation may include representation from advocacy organizations and professional subject matter experts.

The staff person is mandatory on the Committee and will be appointed by Council as the Lead. They will support the work of the Council representative, and will prepare and circulate meeting agendas, take minutes of the meetings, arrange guest speakers and other professional development opportunities, assist with online learning, and perform other day to day tasks as required. The Lead will maintain the Plan as a fluid document that can be revised, updated and renewed every 3 years.

All members should become familiar with the Provincial Accessibility Act and what is happening on the provincial level to address issues of accessibility and removing barriers. These learning opportunities are an important means of bringing the Committee members up to speed and getting them in touch with other professionals in the field of accessibility.

All members should also become familiar with the Accessible Canada Act 2019, while the various provinces are responsible for their own plan, there is much to be learned at the national level. This will provide awareness of funding that may be available to support local projects and initiatives.

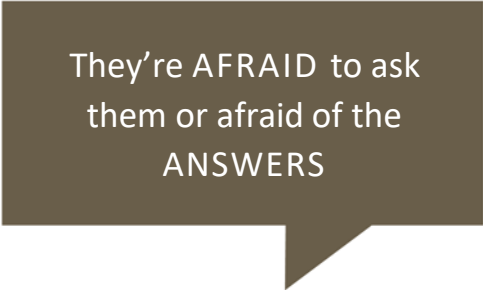
This Committee will function with a Terms of Reference from Council that will define the committee's work in terms of its role, its objectives, its reporting requirements, and its participation expectations. The Committee will meet a minimum of 3 times per year. Council will publish scheduled meeting times on its social media and include contact information for committee members to enable the public to bring forward their suggestions for discussion.

## 6.0 Council Commitment

Work to ensure opportunities are provided to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for further learning on accessibility and inclusion. While most opportunities will be free learning, there may be donations or registration costs to be considered. Make opportunities for the members of the general public of Grand Falls-Windsor to learn about what they can do to improve accessibility.

Share the plan with the public and advise them on the commitment from Council to improve accessibility and inclusivity, this will influence others to be more proactive in the community.

Implementing the goals and actions of this plan are critical to the plan's success. Council recognizes that costs will be incurred but will explore opportunities for all federal and provincial funding.



They're AFRAID to ask  
them or afraid of the  
ANSWERS

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## 7.0 Accessibility Standards

In time Council will establish new standards for accessibility within Grand Falls-Windsor, which will help improve or remove barriers on accessibility.

“Officially”, a “standard” may apply to individuals, organizations, or public bodies that:

- Design and deliver programs and services.
- Provide information or communication.
- Procure goods, services, and facilities.
- Offer accommodations.
- Provide education or offer opportunities for learning.
- Provide healthcare.
- Provide opportunities for employment.
- Own, operate, maintain or control an aspect of the “built” environment other than a private residence with 3 or less residential units.
- Conduct an activity or undertaking prescribed in the regulation.

These “standards” cannot violate or supersede the “standards” set by the Province of Newfoundland Labrador through the Accessibility Standards Advisory Board in 2022. These are the standards that are to be applied in every situation that may exist in Newfoundland and Labrador when it comes to accessibility.

## Courage

doesn't mean you don't get afraid,

courage means you don't let fear STOP you

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## GLOSSARY

The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador defines “disability” as follows:

“A disability includes a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment or a functional limitation that is permanent, temporary, or episodic in nature that, in interaction with a barrier, prevents a person from fully participating in society.”

“A barrier means anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in society, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, or a barrier established or perpetrated by an Act, regulations, a policy or practice.”

Accessibility Advisory Committee – The Advisory Committee looks at the facilities, programs, services, and operations that currently are in place in Grand Falls-Windsor and puts forth recommendations on how the town can prevent and remove barriers so that the town can be more accessible going forward. The Accessibility Advisory Committee can put forth recommendations and provide advice, but council does not have an obligation to implement the suggestions made.

Accessible – at the local level, it simply means putting forth efforts to remove barriers to participation; whether they be physical barriers or other barriers (such as enlarging the font size of the print on correspondence for aging adults or for the visually impaired), or removing barriers to participation for various individuals or groups who may not otherwise be comfortable participating. At one time the term “accessible” referred only to physical accessibility, but it has been expanded to include much more.

Accessible community refers to a specific community of people which believes in and supports the principles of accessibility (in this case, residents of Grand Falls-Windsor).

Accessibility Act is a provincial law (Province of Newfoundland Labrador) that governs all issues relating to accessibility, in general, which became law in 2021. The Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities oversees the work of his/her officials, and staff within the department can be a huge help and resource to people like those serving on the ‘Advisory Committee on Accessibility’ in Grand Falls-Windsor, or the members of council, in general.

Accessible Canada Act is a federal law adopted by the Government of Canada in 2019. The law applies primarily to those under federal jurisdiction (such as indigenous groups), but many excellent ideas can be borrowed from this legislation and applied locally in Grand Falls-Windsor.

Accessibility standards are a set of standards that are provided to public bodies whereby they can (as a public body) develop a set of standards through the provincial Accessibility Act which governs all aspects of accessibility, in this case, within the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor.

Building regulations refer to the official regulations which govern builders which have been adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor to control building and development within the town.

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Chair as in “chairing a committee” refers to individuals who are elected or appointed to lead a committee. The additional responsibilities of the chair are to ensure meetings are scheduled; to help prepare the meeting agenda; to note who attends (and who is absent); to lead the discussion and maintain “order” in the meetings following the rules of order that have been adopted; to understand the basic principles of democracy and meeting decorum; and to ensure the “minutes” of the meeting are circulated to others (as decided by the committee).

Goals are defined as a ‘desired result’ or outcomes – something you are aiming to achieve. In terms of improving accessibility, the goals that are identified by the town are things the town would like to achieve to make Grand Falls-Windsor more accessible.

Inclusion is a term broadly used to proactively remove any barriers that may exist that may prevent residents of Grand Falls-Windsor from participating – these barriers could be physical, emotional, intellectual, or through discrimination as a result of prejudice, or removal of any type(s) of barriers of any nature.

Intellectual impairments refer to barriers of an intellectual nature (such as autism) which are not so easy to see but may be a barrier to an individual’s full participation in programs or events in the community for various reasons.

Lead on issues of accessibility is normally the staff person appointed by council to serve on the committee and is an individual who can be trusted to be “in the know” and somewhat of a ‘local expert’ on issues relating to accessibility that council can refer to for advice and to answer questions as they arise etc...

Local representatives are people chosen to represent the town of Grand Falls-Windsor who actually live in the town.

Open Call is a term used in official “Rules of Order” that means that (in this case) council will prepare a document which will be made public “Expression of Interest” for nominations to serve on the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Depending on the response, not everyone nominated will serve on the Committee. Ultimately, that will be council’s decision.

Physical handicaps – are barriers of a physical nature that may prevent some individuals from participating (such as not having wheelchair accessible washrooms or entranceways).

Public refers to anyone who would like to attend a meeting, in this case – whether they be residents of Grand Falls-Windsor or others living in neighbouring communities who may have an interest in issues of accessibility. When public is used there are usually no ‘restrictions’ on who can attend.

Public Document is any document ordered by council to be prepared for viewing by residents of Grand Falls-Windsor or elsewhere. A public document may be shared through social media and posted on the town’s website and thus can be viewed by anyone and is generally made available for viewing by members of the public (not just residents of Grand Falls-Windsor).

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## CONCLUSION

Council commits to making issues of accessibility and inclusion a priority in future operations. As well, Council commits to the prevention and removal of barriers that currently exist. The Committee will develop a working implementation plan to guide its committee work.

Council will ensure that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor 's Accessibility Plan will be discussed during budget discussions every year and will work to ensure there are funds available for initiatives pertaining to improving accessibility.

Council is committed to ensuring any potential new builds are accessible and compliant with modern accessibility regulations. Council will commit to applying an “accessibility lens” to everything it does so that we are more accessible and inclusive.

Council always welcomes input, suggestions, and recommendations from the public, especially in ways they can advance their learning from the perspective of people that live with barriers associated with accessibility and inclusion and they commit to making themselves available for discussion.

Council recognizes “doing” is more than just “saying” and will consider accessibility and inclusion in all operational aspects including hiring, volunteering, coaching, and providing places to meet.

The Town of Grand Falls – Windsor strives to stand tall and be the leader on issues of accessibility and inclusion, to make Grand Falls – Windsor a barrier free place to live or visit in the future.

Not taking action is the

**ULTIMATE  
DISABILITY**





# APPENDIX A:

## Minutes from Public Consultation

- The meeting started on time at 7:00 pm and Councillor Holly Dwyer began the night by introducing the Accessibility Advisory Committee and mentioning that JW Consulting Associates have been hired to provide guidance to the town on issues of accessibility and to complete the plan for the town
- John Walsh of JW Consulting Associates did a presentation of what Grand Falls-Windsor has already done to improve accessibility and what they plan to do in the next few years
- It was mentioned in the public hearing that the door on the Nordic Ski lodge building is currently not accessible; so, the facility is only “partially accessible”
- It was also mentioned that the bathroom door at the Nordic Ski Lodge is too heavy and there is no family washroom (with change table)
- It was suggested that the most “cost efficient” way to build anything relating to accessibility is to do it “right the first” time – it may cost a little more, but an accessible and inclusive community benefits everyone
- It was also said that many local businesses (while you can gain access) they are hard to move around in because the aisles are cluttered and so tight (space wise)
- There was some discussion about who to contact if you have an accessibility issue – the province or the municipality – The Town Development staff will accept complaints and inquiries and make sure the province is aware of the situation. Ultimately the Province has responsibility for accessibility requirements.
- It was also mentioned that the ramp going to Salmon River was unsafe.
- It was said that persons in wheelchairs are restricted from even going to the pool at the YMCA because it is not accessible; it was also mentioned that the pool ramp at the YMCA needed to be looked at for safety and accessibility
- How many people are in wheelchairs in the town? this could be the work of the Advisory Committee to find that out; it could affect funding and other financial supports
- Public transit is a problem for the accessible community especially
- It was asked, “Why are so many commercial buildings in town not accessible?”
- It was recommended (by a person in a wheelchair) that someone in a wheelchair should be involved in inspections for accessibility; unless you have that “lived experience” you would not know
- It was noted that sometimes wheelchair “push buttons” aren’t even turned on.

- The “Accessibility Advisory Committee” could highlight businesses that are accessible if they wanted to approach accessibility in a positive way; that might encourage others to upgrade and be compliant
- Council must “raise awareness” about accessibility, in general; for example - service dogs used to be used primarily to assist those with visual impairments, now there are “service dogs used for emotional support (like PTSD)
- Has the town thought about building a facility specifically for activities for those with special needs (like Easter Seals does in St. John’s)
- People need activities to stimulate people with special needs; socialization is a big part of this (even for our aging adults)
- It was also suggested that the town could use more wheelchair spaces around town
- More enforcement for accessible parking is badly needed in the town, as well
- It was asked if buildings built before 1980 don’t need to be accessible? this is perplexing to many; why 1980? Was it arbitrarily chosen?
- When a building is sold, the new owners don’t need to make it accessible; this is a problem for the accessible community
- You just need to “raise awareness” about accessibility, in general; use whatever social media devices work for you; get the message out in as many ways as possible; it was suggested to take every opportunity to highlight “accessibility and inclusion” when speaking at functions (youth activities, Citizen of the Year banquet, Fireman’s Ball) – talk about accessibility and inclusion
- Province is responsible for regulations on new builds and major renovations are based on percentage of renovations being undertaken (CAO said)
- After the meeting, it was mentioned you could have someone “sign” the meeting using American Sign Language (ASL) to encourage someone “deaf” to attend (which is part of the accessible community), and a microphone (with adapted audio) could have been provided to assist the hard of hearing (for Councilor Dwyer remarks and John Walsh’s presentation)

Meeting ended 8:37

# APPENDIX B:

## Sign In sheets – Public Consultation

Attendance – Grand Falls-Windsor Public Consultation – Monday, December 18, 2023

NAME (PRINT)	POSITION	SIGNATURE
John Walsh	JWGA	John J. Walsh
Jeff Walsh	JWGA	<del>Jeff Walsh</del>
LORRAINE Collins		Lorraine Collin
Ashley Sullivan		Ashley Sullivan
Lisa Sullivan		Lisa Sullivan
Teresa Laite	retired	Teresa Laite
Amy Bishop		Amy Bishop
Robyn Hannaford	communications, Town of GFW	Robyn Hannaford
<del>Wally Dwyer</del>		
<del>ileen Sullivan</del>		
Vanessa Hunter		Vanessa Hunter
Ray Phair		Ray Phair
Nicde Whelan		Nicde Whelan
Paige feltham		Paige feltham
Arthur King	Retired	Arthur King
ERICA BILLINGS	Mom Receptionist / LKH Care Assistant	Erica Billings
Kara Hutchinson	Deputy Town Clerk Town Clerk	Kara Hutchinson

