



## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Patti Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 0540-01  
**PC:** Kevin Poole, Director, Community Safety, Lands and Administration **DATE:** June 1, 2023  
**FROM:** Janice Nicol, Manager, Legislative Services  
**SUBJECT: REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

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Bill 6-2021: *Accessible British Columbia Act* received assent on June 17, 2021 and requires public sector organizations to establish:

- An accessibility committee;
- An accessibility plan; and
- A tool to receive feedback on accessibility.

The above requirements are to be in place by September 1, 2023 and are intended to ensure organizations are planning for accessibility in a way that is informed by people with disabilities.

The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) has offered to take the lead and form a Regional Accessibility Committee, with input from the six member municipalities' Corporate and Chief Administrative Officers. There have been several regional Corporate Officer meetings held to discuss the Terms of Reference, Committee membership, the accessibility plan and a mechanism to receive feedback. A draft Terms of Reference will be presented at the June 21, 2023, RDNO Board meeting and will be shared with each respective Council once endorsed by the Board.

Once established, the Regional Accessibility Committee, through RDNO, will identify barriers to individuals interacting with an organization(s) and advise the organization(s) on how to remove and prevent barriers (the Plan). The Plan must consider the following principles: inclusion, adaptability, diversity, collaboration, self-determination and universal design. The Plan must be reviewed and updated at least once every three (3) years and must consider any comments from required public feedback. The Accessibility Committee should aim to have at least half of its members be persons with disabilities and/or represent the diversity of British Columbians and include Indigenous peoples.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "Regional Accessibility Committee Update" dated June 1, 2023 and respectfully submitted by the Manager, Legislative Services.

Respectfully submitted:

*Janice T. Al*

Approved for the Agenda by the CAO 