

**Accessibility Committee Meeting**  
to be held via Zoom and in person in Room A – City Hall  
Wednesday, July 8, 2026  
at 9:30 am

1. **Call Regular Committee Meeting to Order**  
*We acknowledge that Penticton, where we live and work, is on the traditional lands of the Syilx People in the Okanagan Nation.*
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Adoption of Minutes**
  - 3.1 Minutes of the June 26, 2026 Special Accessibility Committee Meeting  
Recommendation:  
*THAT the Accessibility Committee adopt the minutes of the June 26, 2026 Special Accessibility Committee meeting as presented.*
4. **New Business**
  - Johnson 4.1 Outdoor Rink – Activation Planning  
Staff Recommendation  
THAT the Accessibility Committee receive into the record the report dated July 8, 2026, titled “Outdoor Rink – Activation Planning”.
  - Desrosiers 4.2 National AccessAbility Week Funding – 2027 to 2029  
Staff Recommendation  
THAT the Accessibility Committee provide feedback on and endorse the proposed three-year National AccessAbility Week Funding program concept, and support the submission of a grant application to Employment and Social Development Canada for funding of up to \$180,000 through the Accessible Canada – National AccessAbility Week Funding Program.
  - Chair 4.3 Legacy Acknowledgement  
Desrosiers
5. **Next Meeting**
6. **Adjournment**

**Special Accessibility Committee Meeting**  
held via Zoom and in person in Council Chambers  
Friday, June 26, 2026  
at 9:30 a.m.

**Present:** Trisha Kaplan, Chair  
Leanne Williams, Vice-Chair  
Randy Boras  
Grant Pattingale  
Heather Miller  
Krista Russo  
Kristi Bauman  
Ron Crawford

**Regrets:** Julius Bloomfield, Mayor

**Staff:** Blake Laven, General Manager of Development Services  
Sarah Desrosiers, Social Development Specialist  
Steven Collyer, Housing and Policy Initiative Manager  
Janet Glowa, Legislative Assistant

1. **Call to Order**

The Chair called the Special Accessibility Committee to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Accessibility Committee adopt the agenda of June 26, 2026 as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Accessibility Committee adopt the minutes of the April 22, 2026, meeting as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Heather Miller joined the meeting in person at 9:36 a.m.

**4. New Business**

**4.1 Draft Esplanade Renewal Plan**

The Housing and Policy Initiatives Manager provided a presentation on the draft Esplanade Renewal Plan.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT The Accessibility Committee receive into the record the report dated June 26, 2026 titled "Draft Esplanade Renewal Plan".

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Accessibility Committee recommends the following changes be implemented in the draft Esplanade Renewal Plan prior to Council endorsing the plan:

- That the plan acknowledges the importance of accessibility to the community of Penticton;
- That accessibility is embedded into the implementation plan;
- That a policy statement be added to the plan requiring the application of universal design principles to all aspects of the project;
- That any project coming from the Esplanade Renewal Plan be referred to the accessibility committee at the draft stage.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Next Meeting**

The next regular Accessibility Committee meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2026 at 9:30 am via Zoom and in-person.

**6. Adjournment**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Accessibility Committee adjourn the meeting held on June 26, 2026 at 10:50 a.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified Correct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Glowa  
Legislative Assistant



# Memo to Committee

penticton.ca

**Date:** July 8, 2026  
**To:** Accessibility Committee  
**From:** Kelsey Johnson, General Manager of Community Services

**Subject:** Outdoor Rink – Activation Planning

## Staff Recommendation

THAT the Accessibility Committee receive into the record the report dated July 8, 2026, titled “Outdoor Rink – Activation Planning”.

## Background

At their Regular Meeting on June 23, 2026, Council received a report regarding the Outdoor Rink Season Operations Summary and considered options related to the future of the rink infrastructure. Council subsequently directed staff to remove the existing board system and further directed staff to return with a plan to activate and animate the space, following consultation with the Accessibility Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee, for consideration during the 2027 budget process.

The outdoor rink has served as a flexible community space, accommodating activities such as ice skating, roller skating and community events such as the annual Firefighter’s Dodgeball Tournament.

With the removal of the boards, the space presents an opportunity to evolve into a more flexible, year-round community gathering area. Amenities that exist at the outdoor rink and within the surrounding park include:

- Public washrooms
- Cooling station (misting sticks)
- Water bottle fill station
- Open green space and shaded areas
- Site lighting
- Electrical pedestals to support special events and food trucks

Staff are seeking Committee feedback regarding activation and accessibility considerations that can inform future programming, design, and operational planning. Initial concepts for discussion include:

- Heating area
- Aerial string lighting
- Additional benches/seating
- Additional rubber matting
- Shade structure

## Next Steps

Feedback received from the Committee will be incorporated into the options for activation and animation of the Outdoor Rink space with the associated budget implications being brought forward for Council consideration as part of the 2027 budget deliberations later this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Johnson  
GM of Community Services



# Memo to Committee

penticton.ca

**Date:** July 8, 2026  
**To:** Accessibility Committee  
**From:** Sarah Desrosiers

File No: 0540-20

**Subject:** National AccessAbility Week Funding – 2027 to 2029

## Staff Recommendation

THAT the Accessibility Committee provide feedback on and endorse the proposed three-year National AccessAbility Week Funding program concept, and support the submission of a grant application to Employment and Social Development Canada for funding of up to \$180,000 through the Accessible Canada – National AccessAbility Week Funding Program.

## Background

Employment and Social Development Canada launched the Accessible Canada – National AccessAbility Week Funding Program (2027–2029) to support projects that promote the implementation of the *Accessible Canada Act* through activities that highlight the contributions of persons with disabilities, raise awareness, and advance accessibility and inclusion in communities and workplaces across Canada. Eligible organizations may apply for up to \$180,000 over three years for scalable National AccessAbility Week projects. The application submission deadline is Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 12:00pm.

The proposed City of Penticton application would establish and progressively expand National AccessAbility Week programming over the three-year funding period. The initiative would be coordinated through a dedicated project coordinator and would build community awareness while creating opportunities for education, celebration, and participation.

### Year 1 – Sunday, May 30 – Saturday, June 5, 2027

- Project Coordinator
- Free transit service during National AccessAbility Week
- Community-Wide Social Media and Awareness Campaign
- One-day Accessibility Festival showcasing the achievements, talents and contributions of people with disabilities and highlighting accessible services, programs and organizations.

### Year 2 – Sunday, May 28 - Saturday, June 3, 2028

- All Year 1 activities, plus work with community partners to create an Accessible Sports and Recreation Event and/or tournament opportunities designed to promote inclusive participation.

**Year 3 – Sunday, May 27 to Saturday, June 2, 2029**

- All Year 2 activities, plus work with community partners to create an Accessibility Conference bringing together people with disabilities, service providers, businesses, community organizations, and government partners to share best practices, innovations, and lived experiences related to accessibility and inclusion

This phased approach aligns with the grant program's objective of supporting scalable projects that increase awareness, celebrate the contributions of persons with disabilities, and promote accessibility within communities.

### **Financial implication**

The City would apply for the grant stream of up to \$180,000 over three years, with funding used to support staffing, promotion, event delivery, accessibility accommodations, free transit initiatives during National AccessAbility Week, accessible sports programming, and the development of an accessibility conference. The proposed funding model deliberately scales investment and programming over the three-year grant period, with approximately \$40,000 allocated in Year 1, \$60,000 in Year 2, and \$80,000 in Year 3.

### **Analysis**

The proposed project would position Penticton as a leader in accessibility awareness and community inclusion by creating a growing annual program of events tied to National AccessAbility Week.

The initiative would:

- Increase public awareness of accessibility issues and opportunities.
- Celebrate the achievements and contributions of residents with disabilities.
- Reduce participation barriers through initiatives such as free transit and accessible programming.
- Strengthen partnerships with disability-serving organizations, community groups, businesses, and recreation providers.
- Create opportunities for education, engagement, and community dialogue regarding accessibility and inclusion.
- Build upon existing accessibility initiatives and support the goals of the City's Accessibility Plan.

Staff are seeking feedback from the Accessibility Committee on the proposed three-year National AccessAbility Week Funding program, including a phased approach to activities, partnership opportunities, accessibility considerations, and community priorities. Committee input will help ensure the proposed grant application reflects local needs, incorporates lived experience perspectives, and maximizes the impact of the initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Desrosiers  
Social Development Specialist