

Report to Council

Report Title: Enabling Accessibility Fund Youth Lead Pool Wheelchair Lift

Prepared By: Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)

Department: Recreation

Date: September 26, 2023

Report Number: REC2023-28 **File Number:** C11REC, F11

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby Report Number REC2023-28 – Enabling Accessibility Fund Youth Lead Pool Wheelchair Lift, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer and Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) for information purposes and in doing so supports the Youth Accessibility Leader applying on behalf of Municipality for a pool wheelchair lift.

Report:

Background:

The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) provides grant funding to eligible organizations for small-scale construction, renovation or retrofit projects that improve accessibility for people with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces. The *Youth Innovation Component* engages and challenges youth to volunteer by collaborating with local organizations to help build a more inclusive and accessible Canada by applying for funding of up to \$10,000.

The Municipality of Brockton is committed to accessibility in our communities with a Multi Year Accessibility Plan that that was prepared in accordance to the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2021 and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. The Accessibility Plan addresses improvements to recreational facilities, playground and programs.

Analysis:

Staff have reached out to a knowledgeable youth within our organization and community to support an application with EAF for a wheelchair lift for the Walkerton Pool. Wheelchair lifts are mechanical devices that transfer people from the deck into the swimming pool, and the swimming pool to the deck. The pool currently has a ramp; however, this still creates some barriers for individuals that require wheelchair assistance.

The first step is for the Youth Accessibility Leader (YAL) is to apply to become a YAL to the Federal government by October 10, 2023 and will receive a response within 10 business days. If they are selected to proceed, Employment and Social Development Canada will send a tool kit by email with all the information required to help start their journey. The YAL will have a basic understanding of the EAF program and the eligibility criteria of the process. The tool kit includes the:

- Youth Journey Journal
- application for funding form, and
- applicant guide for the EAF Youth Innovation Component

In addition, the YAL will work with the Municipality to complete an application for the wheelchair lift valued up to \$10,000.

Municipal staff recommend the wheelchair lift, as it is a helpful service improvement for people of all ages (including youth) and that fits within the budget parameters and also aligns with the goal of the grant. The Brockton Accessibility Advisory recently toured the pool facility and made a number of recommendations, some of which have already been implemented and others that will require advance planning through the budget process. The application for the wheelchair lift aligns with the review and recommendations made by the Committee to make the pool facility as accessible as possible.

Municipal staff are excited about this opportunity because it allows us to apply for a major service improvement, but also because it provides an opportunity to partner with local youth and foster a sense of civic engagement and greater awareness for accessibility within Brockton.

Brockton is fortunate to have a number of community minded young people who could apply to be the Youth Accessibility Leader or act as part of an Accessibility Team.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Many accessibility improvements would cost far in excess of the \$10,000 funding maximum. This project represents an opportunity for a meaningful service improvement within the funding parameters.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, flowing script.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Hamilton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sonya Watson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer