

Accessibility Plan

January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027

Rural Municipality of Oakview



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Website: www.rmfoakview.ca

August 2017 – Resolution #300/17 – August 8, 2017 – by September 2017

December 2019 – Resolution #97/20 – March 10, 2020 – Jan 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2021

November 2021 – Resolution #340/21 – December 14, 2021 – Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2023

December 2022 – Resolution #351/22 – December 21, 2022 - annual review

December 2023 – Resolution #430/23 – December 19, 2023 – Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2025

December 2025 – Resolution #2025-473 – December 16, 2025 – January 1, 2026 – Dec 31, 2027

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Senior manager's signature:

Original signed by, C.A.O. –

Table of contents

Executive summary

Statement of commitment

Overview

Municipal facilities and services

Accessibility achievements

Accessibility barriers

Action

Executive Summary

Disability affects the lives of many Manitobans. According to Canadian Survey on Disability, in 2017 ¼ of Manitobans have a disability. This number will continue to grow as our population ages.

On December 5, 2013, The *Accessibility for Manitoba Act* (AMA) was passed to provide a clear, proactive method to identify, prevent and remove barriers to accessibility.

The Accessibility Standards to be developed over the next several years will address barriers and set requirements in five key areas:

1. Customer Service Standard (in effect as of November 1, 2018)
2. Information and Communication
3. Transportation
4. Employment
5. Design of Public Spaces

Statement of Commitment

The Rural Municipality of Oakview is pleased to submit our updated Accessibility Plan for 2024 and 2025. We are committed to ensuring that our policies and procedures promote the dignity, independence and equality of all person with disabilities. We will attempt to identify barriers to equal accessibility and, as funding allows, remove these barriers. We plan to identify and prevent accessibility barriers in our future policies and planning. We will continue to attempt to meet the requirement of the AMA and will review and update our current plan in December of 2023.

Overview

The Rural Municipality of Oakview is situated in south western Manitoba and features the communities of Oak River, Rapid City and Cardale. The RM is made up of an area of 1120 square km and has a population of approx. 1630, is governed by a Reeve, 6 Councillors and 6 LUD (3 for Rapid City & 3 for Oak River) members. The municipality consists of a variety of services:

- Fire Departments – Oak River & Rapid City
- Public Works – 3 shops – Oak River, Cardale & Rapid City
- Water & Sewer services – Oak River & Rapid City
- Library – Rapid City
- Parks and Recreation

Facilities and Services

Municipal Facilities for Public Use

Oak River Municipal Office – is accessible, no automatic doors

Rapid City Municipal Office – is not accessible, has stairs

Staff in both offices have been instructed to ask the public “if they can help” when accessibility may be an issue

Rapid City Regional Library – is accessible (ramp), along with automatic door openers

Rapid City Fire Hall Meeting Room – is accessible, no automatic door openers

Rapid City Museum – closed for renovations

Rapid City Rink – not currently wheelchair accessible

Rapid City Playground Structure – currently is not accessible and does not have special equipment

Rapid City Beach/Campground – accessible, washrooms doors are not automatic

Oak River Memorial Hall & Rink – Oak River – hockey, curling, social gatherings, etc. – is accessible, no automatic door openers

Basswood Community Hall – is accessible, no automatic doors

Rapid City Legion Memorial Community Centre – is accessible (ramp) to south entrance, along with automatic door opens at this location – main door is not accessible, has stairs

Municipal Facilities Not for Public Use

Oak River water treatment plant

Rapid City water treatment plant

Oak River Fire Hall – volunteer fire fighters

Rapid City Fire Hall – volunteer fire fighters

Public Works Departments Shop – Oak River 2 shops, Cardale 1 shop, Rapid City 2 shops

Accessibility Achievements

- A complaint policy 2021-4 can be found on the RM website at www.rmofOakview.ca or by phoning one of the offices and asking for a copy to be sent out
- Rapid City Library provides computers for public use, alternate forms for borrowing materials (large print and audio books)
- Provided training to employees and volunteers to increase their awareness of accessibility and ability to identify barriers
- Accessibility Plan on the municipal website is available on the RM website
- Continually evaluate and modify current policies to ensure compliance with accessibility standards
 - o Accessibility Standards for Customer Service – Policy No 2024-4
- Update the municipal website and Facebook page regularly

Accessibility Barriers

- Sidewalks are uneven, difficult to access sidewalks because of curbs
- Not all people have access to technology

Actions

- Ensure all staff are trained to meet people where they are in terms of communications and assistance (ask how residents can be helped, don't assume staff knows their needs)
- Work with residents to see how we could accommodate them better
- Posters in both offices indicating that staff is willing to help, all they need to do is ask
- Ensure that snow and ice is removed from parking lots/areas and sidewalks
- Keep sidewalks clear of any debris
- Create a checklist to assess all municipal buildings for accessibility to be updated annually
- Create an event accessibility checklist for groups holding events in halls arenas and other municipal facilities
- Have everyone that works/volunteers within the Municipality complete the online training from The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (www.AccessibilityMB.ca) online learning portal
- Apply for grants when available
- Community Standards (May 1, 2025)
- Consultation Requirements – questionnaire to be sent to the Senior's Housing in both communities –