

**Delegation, April 14, 2025**

## **12.1 Jack Purdie Park Trail Tender Results**

Good evening,

**The AODA Regulation is clear - mandatory consultation for recreational trails must be held with the public and persons with disabilities.** Then, municipalities must also consult with their accessibility committee, where one exists.

These consultations should take place prior to our fees being issued.

In addition to the AODA technical requirements, before constructing new or redeveloping existing recreational trails, it is mandatory to consult on:

1. The slope of the trail.
2. The need for, and location of, ramps on the trail.
3. The need for, location and design of,
  - i. rest areas,
  - ii. passing areas,
  - iii. viewing areas,
  - iv. amenities on the trail, and
  - v. any other pertinent feature.

**Eight years ago**, I inquired if there had been any public consultation regarding the development of recreational trails.

**Three years ago**, I asked for dates of consultations regarding recreational trails.

**Last month** I asked for dates of consultations with people with disabilities for trails and parks.

**The CAO provided me with 3 dates**, but they pertained to Accessibility committee meetings. During one of those meetings, the committee was even advised that public consultations would not supplement the requirement for the committee to be consulted.

The CAO further advised that, 'In providing the agenda, the Town has provided notice of the public consultations in accordance with all applicable law. For all future requests for information, please see the Council and Committee calendar which includes this information in a publicly accessible format.'

The report before you states the pathways and trails within Jack Purdie park meet all current AODA and accessibility regulations including 11 rest areas required every 100 to 200 metres according to the town's facility accessibility design standards guidelines.

However, there is currently no sidewalk leading to the existing segregated swing.

The report also states that the tender was circulated to the accessibility committee for review and comment on April.

So, consultations have been held with the public and the committee, but what about the 6300 persons with disabilities in our community?

Consultations with persons with disabilities might have led to providing a more realistic distance between rest areas of 30 m.

The 30 metre distance is the recommendation of the provincial Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee's review of the standard. The intended outcome is to ensure persons with disabilities and older adults have consistent access to rest areas that meet their needs. This provincial committee identified barriers and proposed recommendations to remove them.

Their Recommendations are informed by validated data from academic research, national standards for accessibility and principles of universal design for the built environment.

Many municipalities have created an engagement policy. Some have established a process for consultation with the public **and persons with disabilities** when constructing new or redeveloping existing recreational trails, outdoor play spaces, exterior paths of travel, rest areas, and on-street parking, as required under the AODA Regulation.

I request that you create a process to ensure compliance with the AODA Regulation and embrace the spirit of the AODA.