



GRAAC

GRAND RIVER
ACCESSIBILITY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Application for Appointment to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee

The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) is to eliminate barriers for people with disabilities. Ontario municipalities with populations of 10,000 or more are required to set up accessibility advisory committees. At least 50% of members are to be persons with disabilities. This ensures that the people most affected by barriers in the community are involved in the identification, removal and prevention of those barriers. In accordance with the AODA, the Councils of the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich and the Region of Waterloo set up the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) to provide advice on accessibility issues. GRAAC members are appointed by consensus of the area councils and each member serves for a 4-year term (two terms maximum). GRAAC currently meets on the fourth Thursday of each month 1:30 – 4:00 pm at the City of Kitchener office located at 200 King Street West in Kitchener. Please review the Committee's terms of reference for additional information about purpose and membership. The Terms of Reference is made available on all participating municipalities' websites. Each member of GRAAC acts as an independent representative to GRAAC and does not represent the concerns of only one disability or group.

Instructions for filling out the GRAAC Application

Need help? If you need assistance completing the application, contact one of the members of the Staff Support Team listed on the last page of the application. The application is also available in alternate formats upon request.

Be detailed. The more information you provide on your application, the better. Including as many details in each section as possible on your application will help the Staff Support Team to properly rank your application for membership.

Be patient. Once you submit the application, the Staff Support Team reviews it and makes a recommendation to each of the seven municipal councils that GRAAC advises. You will be notified of the outcome of your application after all seven councils have reviewed it. This process may take upwards of three months.

Privacy: Personal information on this form is collected under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* and in accordance with the requirements of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in order to determine suitability for appointment to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee and for the Committee's administrative purposes. Questions regarding the collection of personal information should be directed to the below noted City of Kitchener Accessibility Support Staff member.

GRAAC Application

Name:	
Address:	City:
Postal Code:	Occupation:
Telephone Numbers: Res:	Bus:
Email:	

I am applying to be a new member of GRAAC

I am a current or past member of another Accessibility Advisory Committee

I am a current member of GRAAC

I am a previous member of GRAAC from _____ to _____.

Membership

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* require that at least 50% of the membership on an accessibility advisory committee shall be persons with disabilities. Check the appropriate statement to describe you:

I identify myself as a person with a disability.

I am a caregiver for a person with a disability.

I am applying on behalf of an agency.

Agency Name: _____

Other (please specify): _____.

Knowledge of Barrier-free Initiatives and Accessibility Issues

Why are you interested in accessibility? Describe any first-hand “lived experience” you have with a disability, either your own or someone else’s.

Describe your knowledge of different types of disabilities.

What does barrier-free and/or universal design mean to you?

Describe any experience you have had working as a member of a committee and if you have served as chair or an executive member of a committee. Include details such as the name of the committee, when you started and finished working on the committee, your role on the committee.

Describe any relevant community volunteer experience you have had.

Describe any related education or training you may have taken.

Describe any other skills or achievements that would be useful to you in serving on GRAAC.

Municipal Government Experience

Please provide details of any experiences that you have with municipal government. For example, have you ever worked for a municipality, attended a Council or Committee meeting as a speaker or observer, or had any other involvement with municipal government.

References

Provide the names of two non-related references who could confirm the information you have provided in this application.

Name of Reference and Relationship to Applicant	Phone Number
1.	
2.	

If you are not able or willing to provide references, please let us know why.

Volunteer Time Commitment

The time commitment for GRAAC volunteers is approximately **5-8 hours** each month. This includes attendance at one monthly GRAAC meeting at the City of Kitchener at 200 King Street (2.5 hours). There is also occasional sub-committee work (optional) and you're meeting preparation time. How many hours per month do you feel you would be able to make available for GRAAC-related duties:

Up to 5 hours

5-8 hours

More than 8 hours

Other _____

Accommodation Requirements

If you are comfortable with it, please let us know if you have any accommodation requirements in order to participate as a committee member. The need for accommodation is important to us and in no way impacts the selection process, however will allow the Staff Support Team to plan ahead as required.

Applicant's Residency

Indicate your place of residency:

City of Kitchener

Township of Woolwich

City of Waterloo

City of Cambridge

Township of North Dumfries

Not a resident of the Region of

Township of Wellesley

Waterloo

Township of Wilmot

Signature:(Type your name)_____ Date:_____

Please return your completed application by Friday October 18, 2019:

Janis McKenzie,
Kitchener City Hall
200 King Street West
7th Floor
PO Box 1118
Kitchener, ON, N2G 4G7
E-mail: janis.mckenzie@kitchener.ca

For More Information

Contact the staff representative for your municipality for information about GRAAC, its Terms of Reference, meeting dates, information about Provincial legislation and any questions about the GRAAC application process.

Please refer to the next page for your staff representatives contact information.

Staff Support Team

Contact Info	Contact Info
Region of Waterloo Sanjay Govindaraj Phone: 519-575-4757 ext. 3861 TTY: 519-575-4608 E-mail: sgovindaraj@regionofwaterloo.ca	City of Kitchener City of Waterloo Lolita Paroski Phone: 519-741-2200 ext. 7226 TTY: 1-866-969-9994 E-mail: lolita.paroski@kitchener.ca
Township of Woolwich Jeff Smith Phone: 519-669-6010 E-mail: jsmith@woolwich.ca	Township of Wellesley Caitlin Gillis Phone: 519-699-3968 E-mail: cgillis@wellesley.ca
Township of North Dumfries Ashley Sage Phone: 519-632-8800 ext. 122 E-mail: asage@northdumfries.ca	Township of Wilmot Tracey Murray Phone: 519-634-8444 ext. 228 TTY: 519-634-5037 E-mail: tracey.murray@wilmot.ca