



October 9, 2020

Warden McNamara and Members of County of Essex Council
360 Fairview Ave. W.
Essex Ontario
N8M 1Y6

Sent by Email gmcnamara@countyofessex.ca

Dear Warden McNamara,

Re: AODA Website Compliance Extension Request from Town of Amherstburg

On October 8, 2020 the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) reviewed a letter from the Town of Amherstburg regarding their request for an extension on the accessibility standards compliance date for municipal websites. Since the legislation was introduced in 2005, with a set timeline for compliance in various areas of municipal operations, it is the position of the committee that this extension is unwarranted.

The members of the ECAAC noted that "fifteen years is long enough to take the necessary steps in achieving website compliance" and "not only does this request undermine the legislation as it stands, but also sends a message that meeting accessibility standards is not important".

As such, the ECAAC is recommending a response from County Council to reflect this position. The ECAAC does not support the resolution from the Town of Amherstburg, but also vehemently opposes any extensions to this deadline for compliance. The ECAAC passed the following resolution:

Moved By Brad Frenette

Seconded By Fern Walsh

That the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee send a letter to Essex County Council outlining their opposition to the resolution received from the Town of Amherstburg, dated September 21, 2020; and

That Essex County Council support the ECAAC's position and send a letter to the Town of Amherstburg, opposing their proposed extension as a matter of principle; and

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That a copy of this letter be forwarded to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility and local lower tier municipalities for their information and for Council support. –

Carried

Enclosed, please find a copy of the letter from the Town of Amherstburg. On behalf of the ECAAC I thank you in advance for the continued support.

Respectfully yours,

Christine Easterbrook,
Chair
Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee

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