

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - DECEMBER 1, 2008**

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – DECEMBER 3, 2008**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Community Services and the Director of Recreation and Culture in consultation with the Chair of the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, recommend:

1. That this report be received for information.

#### **Economic Impact**

Although there are no direct costs associated with this information report, the costs associated with the promotion and delivery of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities annual observance are included within the approved 2008 operating budget.

#### **Communications Plan**

The Recreation and Culture Department and Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) will continue to communicate and inform the community as it relates to its programs, initiatives, and the celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This will be done through the City website, media, advertising, distribution of flyers to community centres, and Vaughan Public Libraries and Councillor's Calendar.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council relating to the annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2008 and the activities scheduled for this day.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

People with disabilities represent a significant and growing part of the population. Dignity and justice for all is the theme of this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, as well as for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The annual observance of the day promotes an understanding of disability issues and aims to mobilize support for dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities into every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

This year the VAAC in partnership with the Recreation and Culture Department will mark the day with a series of inclusive city-wide drop-in recreational activities, the unveiling of a Movement Therapy System and a hockey game in partnership with the Fire and Rescue Department and the Hockey Association for the Developmentally Challenged. The unveiling ceremony of the Movement Therapy System will be held on the Main Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, of the Civic Centre on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 1:00pm. The hockey game will be held at Al Palladini Community Centre on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 4:00pm.

Making accessibility and inclusion part of everyday business at the City of Vaughan is one of the goals of the VAAC. Some of this Committee's achievements include:

- An advocate for more wheelchair accessible parking spaces for both municipal facilities and businesses;
- Provided public information and education on Accessibility in Vaughan through public events;
- Participated in workshops and training breakfast meetings for members of local municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees hosted by Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee;
- Recommended and participated in the Accessible Customer Service orientation session training for the City of Vaughan, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC);
- Participated in the "Emergency Preparedness Training for People with Disabilities and Special Needs" workshop.

VAAC, in partnership with the City of Vaughan, Recreation and Culture Department, is very proud of the projects and activities that have been implemented for the past years. These activities include increased recreational program options for children and youth with disabilities, specialized summer day camps and programs such as: Leaders by Example, Hanging out Together, The Fun Club, autism swim, and swimming for special needs participants. Recreation and Culture staff continued to work with community partners to address service and program gaps. Additional social recreation and programs for children/youth/adults are offered through Variety Village, the Taoist tai Chi Society of Canada and Special Olympics Ontario.

In addition, summer employment opportunities have been opened to young adults with disabilities. To enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in physical activity, the Recreation and Culture Department has purchased a series of adaptive fitness equipment and provided one-on-one support in all programs.

The inclusion of citizens with disabilities is a corporate-wide vision shared by Council and staff as stated in the Vaughan Vision 2020. Bringing this vision to reality requires attention, dedication and skills of city staff, through the TAC, working with the VAAC. VAAC's role is to assist the Corporation in the preparation and implementation of the annual Accessibility Plan; to advise council on the planning and accessibility of municipal buildings and services; and to address and identify the needs of the community by the removal and prevention of barriers in the City of Vaughan's by-laws, policies, program and practices. VAAC follows the guidance of the Ontarians with Disability Act (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA). Under the ODA, municipalities are required to develop and make annual accessibility plans showing how barriers have been identified, removed and prevented. This requirement will continue under the AODA. The plan will also identify initiatives required to meet the Accessible Customer Service legislation (Reg. On. 429/07), ensuring that the City is ready for the January 1, 2010 deadline.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**  
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; and Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness – To deliver high quality services and promote health and wellness through program development and increased awareness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Regional Implications**

There are no regional implications.

### **Conclusion**

While numerous achievements in accessibility are outlined in this report, we are aware that not all barriers have been identified or removed. The VAAC will continue to raise awareness on accessibility issues and make recommendations on the preparation of the annual corporate wide Accessibility Plan so that citizens with disabilities will not be limited in any way. VAAC will also continue to promote the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2008, as a time to make a renewed commitment to these principles of dignity and justice and to ensure implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### **Attachments**

1. Schedule of Activities for International Day of Persons with Disabilities – December 3, 2008

### **Report Prepared By**

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Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen  
Commissioner of Community Services

# City of Vaughan

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities December 3, 2008

Civic Centre – Main Foyer, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	1 pm	Unveiling Ceremony – Movement Therapy System
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### Schedule of Activities

Community Centre	Morning / Afternoon Activities		Afternoon / Evening Activities	
Al Palladini	1 – 2 pm	Recreational Skating	4 – 5 pm	Inclusive Hockey Game
Chancellor	N/A		4 – 6 pm	Recreational Swimming
Dufferin Clark	11:05 am – 1 pm	Parent and Tot Swimming	5 – 7pm	Early Years Program
Father Ermanno Bulfon	12 pm – 3 pm	Hangin' Out Together	6 – 9 pm	Hangin' Out Together
Garnet A. Williams	9 am – 11:30 am	Preschool / Kindergym Drop-In	N/A	
Maple	10 am – 12 pm	Bocce	5:30 – 8 pm	Fun Club
Vellore Village	N/A		3:30 – 6 pm	Youth Drop-In