

Accessibility Advisory Table

Meeting Minutes (Screen-Reader Accessible Version)

Meeting Date: January 29, 2026

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Ches Leach Lounge, Art Hauser Centre

Section 1. Attendees

Mayor Bill Powalinsky

Anna Dinsdale, Community Safety and Well-Being Manager

Jim Woodcock, Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator

Charlene Tebbutt, Community Mobility Coordinator

Loretta Czarnota, Catholic Family Services

Mark Krayetski, Prince Albert Community Service Centre

Jennie Knudsen, Saskatchewan Health Authority

Patrick Fairbairn, Low Vision and Peer Support Group

Samantha Kelly, Prince Albert Literacy Network

Kara Thorpe, Prince Albert Literacy Network

Arjan Pillai, Prince Albert Daily Herald

Nyx Hedley, Inclusion Saskatchewan

Sydney Risler, Inclusion Saskatchewan

Barb Hunter, Prince Albert Early Years Family Resource Centre

Mohammed Ali, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (online)

Georgia Acdal, Learning Disabilities Association of Saskatchewan

Section 2. Meeting Opening

Anna welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves and the organization they represent.

Anna introduced Arjun from the Prince Albert Daily Herald and asked if anyone had concerns about him recording the meeting for a news story. No concerns were raised.

Section 3. Purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Table

Anna explained that the advisory table will help the City of Prince Albert:

- understand accessibility needs across the community
- gather insights from people with lived experience
- support planning for a more inclusive and accessible city
- help prioritize and budget accessibility improvements

Anna emphasized that the City's role is to coordinate information, hold all the threads together, and support long-term accessibility goals.

Section 4. Overview of the 2026 to 2030 Accessibility Plan

City Council approved the Accessibility Plan in December 2025.

Anna explained that the province requires accessibility planning, but the City wants to take meaningful steps with input from people with lived and living experience. The approved document identifies priority areas for review over the next three years.

The six priority areas are:

1. **Built Environment:** Improve accessibility in public infrastructure.
2. **Information and Communications:** Ensure accessible digital and physical communication.
3. **Employment:** Support inclusive hiring and workplace accommodations.
4. **Transportation:** Improve accessibility in public transit.
5. **Service Delivery:** Ensure programs and services are accessible.
6. **Procurement:** Include accessibility in purchasing decisions.

Additional updates:

- In 2025, an external company assessed most public-facing buildings and provided recommendations.
 - A transit assessment is planned for 2026.
 - Consultations will be ongoing and relationship-based, not one-time events.
 - The advisory table will add to, not replace, engagement with other stakeholder tables such as communication with peer support groups that is already established.
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Section 5. Discussion on Advisory Table Structure

The group discussed:

- the composition of the advisory table
- possible names for the group because there was feedback that Accessibility Advisory Table is difficult to understand
- meeting frequency, with agreement on quarterly meetings
- offering evening meetings for those unable to attend during the day
- rotating meeting locations to assess accessibility of different venues

Mohammed from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind emphasized the importance of having a space where people with disabilities can share their challenges directly with the City.

Participants expressed appreciation for having a forum to discuss accessibility issues.

Section 6. Early Priorities Identified

The group identified several early priorities:

- Identify accessibility barriers clearly.
- Determine the best ways to communicate challenges.
- Choose a name for the advisory group- the group suggested Prince Albert Public Feedback Group for Accessibility
- Establish how feedback will be received.

- Create a process for the public to report accessibility barriers.
 - Track feedback and concerns using clear and consistent language.
 - Have a ‘focus’ topic for each meeting
 - Hold meetings at different locations.
 - Offer some meetings in the evening.
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Section 7. Remarks from Mayor Powalinsky

Mayor Powalinsky shared personal experiences with accessibility barriers and emphasized:

- the importance of representation within the advisory group
- the City’s three pillars: a strong economy, a progressive community, and high-quality public service
- the need for an accessibility audit informed by people with lived experience
- identifying which issues are simple fixes and which require long-term planning or funding
- the importance of having an “accessibility champion” on City Council

Participants supported the idea of an accessibility champion.

Section 8. Communication and Public Awareness

The group discussed ways to share information about the advisory table's work, including creating an accessibility page on the City of Prince Albert website.

Section 9. Planning for Future Meetings

The group agreed that:

- meetings should rotate across different venues to assess accessibility
 - meeting times should vary, including daytime and evening options
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Section 10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 3:15 p.m.