

**Minutes of the First (1st) meeting of the
Hearst Accessibility Committee
February 23, 2018**

The first (1st) meeting of this committee took place at noon in the Hearst Town Hall Conference room, located at 925 Alexandra Street.

In attendance: Anne-Marie Portelance, President, André Rhéaume, Tammy Coulombe
Chantal G. Dillon and Julie Lanoix.

1. Opening

President opened the meeting at 12:14 pm. She welcomed all executive members.

2. Review of the last Executive Committee meeting minutes (November 23, 2017)

Anne-Marie Portelance reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.

3. Business arising from previous minutes (November 23, 2017)

A.M. Portelance thanked everyone who took part in the Hearst Accessibility Committee's 10th anniversary brunch that was held on Sunday, December 10, 2017. She thanked André Rhéaume, Julie Lanoix and Claire Forcier for their testimony, Tammy Coulombe for her work on the Committee's PowerPoint presentation as well as Aline Morissette and Jean-Paul Grondin for purchasing balloons.

The President informed the members that on December 21, 2017, Julie Lanoix, Claire Forcier and herself presented a certificate to all the staff and students of École publique Passeport Jeunesse. This was to highlight the excellent work they have done to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

A.M. Portelance informed the members that the next public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at the Heritage Sawmill Marketplace. Tammy Larouche, from Victim Services and Joelle Ayotte from Habitat Interlude will be our guest speakers.

4. New Business

- The Chair questioned members about upcoming evaluations. Everyone agreed that this committee should evaluate the accessibility of the workplaces of employees or volunteers in the municipality. Recommendations would then be made to ensure that the municipality is ready if anyone ever faces accessibility challenges as a result of an accident or as a new member of the fire brigade or public works employee. André Rhéaume volunteered to discuss it with Yves Morrissette.

- A.M. Portelance informed members that the Hearst Accessibility Committee was one of 12 committees selected from the 140 Accessibility Committees of Ontario to participate in the Consultation on Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees. The President says she is very honored and explains to the members the progress of this consultation.
- The Chair drew the attention to the pedestrian crossing at the center of George Street between 8th and 9th Street. She recommended that yellow lines be painted so that this crossing would be more visible for people with different limitations and that signs be installed so that these people or even visitors know where this crossing is located in winter time.

5. Tip of the month

Hire for talent program

The HIRE for TALENT program aims to increase employer awareness about how people with disabilities are a talented part of the workforce. It will also provide resources to help employers tap into this talent pool during their search for skilled workers. By understanding how to create inclusive workplaces, employers and workers can discover many benefits, while encouraging economic growth -- a "win-win situation" for everyone.

<http://www.hirefortalent.ca>

6. Adjournment

- President adjourned the meeting at 1:21 pm.

The next public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heritage Sawmill Marketplace. The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Friday, June 15, 2018, at 12:00 pm (noon hour) in the Town Hall Conference room.

Anne-Marie Portelance, President