

Village of Clinton Accessibility Plan



July 9, 2025

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1. Introduction

a. About the Organization

The Village of Clinton is a small friendly community located in one of the most pristine natural environments in the world, while still being close and accessible to larger centres. Clinton is located on Highway 97, midway between Vancouver and Prince George. Clinton has a colourful history of over 150 years and was founded as a direct result of the “boom” of the Cariboo Gold Rush. This active community of 650 residents has a unique western atmosphere, stunning scenery, and an abundance of recreational opportunities. Incorporated in 1963, Clinton boasts hosting one of British Columbia’s oldest continuously running events; the Clinton Annual Ball, now held in May of each year.

b. Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents of Clinton,

I am pleased to introduce our new accessibility plan, a vital step towards making the Village of Clinton more inclusive and welcoming for everyone. This project is one way we are working to improve the quality of life for all residents. By enhancing public spaces, upgrading infrastructure, and ensuring better access to essential services, we are taking concrete actions to create a more equitable community. Your feedback and participation have been invaluable in shaping this plan, and I look forward to working together to implement these changes.

Let's continue building a Clinton that truly serves all its citizens with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

Mayor Roland Stanke



c. Message from Accessibility Committee

The Accessibility Advisory Committee is proud to present the **Accessibility Plan 2025**, the result of a collaborative effort between the committee and the Village of Clinton. We believe that accessibility is a fundamental pillar of a strong, inclusive community. Our vision is clear: to make Clinton a place where accessibility is prioritized, ensuring that everyone—regardless of ability—can fully participate in all aspects of community life.

This plan reflects our unwavering commitment to enhancing accessibility throughout the village. We are dedicated to identifying and addressing barriers while creating opportunities for individuals to access and enjoy public spaces, services, and facilities with dignity and equality. Our goal is to foster a community where people can live, work, learn, and play without limitations.

We encourage the community to join us in this important endeavor. Your input and engagement are invaluable in shaping a more accessible and inclusive future for Clinton. Thank you for your support as we work together to create a welcoming environment for all.

d. Acknowledgement of Key Contributors

The Village of Clinton wishes to thank all the residents, employees, and committee members who participated in the development of this plan. Your feedback and willingness to share your personal experiences will make this plan much more meaningful and effective.

e. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Village of Clinton and the Clinton Accessibility Committee acknowledge that the land to which this plan applies is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band and High Bar First Nation.

2. Framework Guiding our Work

a. Accessible BC Act-Principles

The Accessible British Columbia Act was enacted in June 2021. The Accessible British Columbia Regulation came into force on September 1, 2022. These regulations identify municipalities as accessible organizations, and require them to have the following in place:

- i. An accessibility committee;
- ii. An accessibility plan; and
- iii. A tool to receive feedback.

The Accessible British Columbia Act requires municipalities to consider the following principles when developing and updating accessibility plans:

- Inclusion – All British Columbians, including persons with disabilities, should be able to participate fully and equally in their communities.
- Adaptability – Accessibility plans should reflect the disability and accessibility are evolving concepts that change as services, technology, and attitudes change.
- Diversity – Every person is unique. Accessibility plans should acknowledge the principle of diversity within the disability community.
- Collaboration – Promoting accessible communities is a shared responsibility and everyone has a role to play.
- Self-Determination – Accessibility plans should seek to empower people with disabilities to make their own choices and pursue the lives they wish to live.
- Universal design – An accessibility plan should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to interact with the Organization.



c. Existing Policies

Many of the Village of Clinton's policies inform how the Village provides accessible services. They are listed below:

Sidewalk & Maintenance Policy

This policy sets standards for the condition and maintenance of the Village's sidewalks.

Workplace Inspection Policy

This policy establishes the system for inspecting Village premises for potential dangers and challenges to mobility.

d. Internal Values and Service Commitment

Values

- **Respect.** All members of the public, employees, and elected officials have a right to be treated with respect regardless of their beliefs, orientations, or abilities.
- **Fairness.** The Village of Clinton strives to provide services by fair and equitable standards that provide each resident consistent, reliable, and unbiased service.
- **Inclusion.** Ensuring that the Village of Clinton considers the multiplicity of perspectives and abilities is an important factor of major decision making.

Service Commitment

In adopting this plan, the Village commits to following the values of respect, fairness, and inclusion in its mandate to provide effective and meaningful services to residents, and a fair and safe place to work.

3. About our Committee

a. Our Approach

On August 23, 2023 Council established the Clinton Accessibility Committee and appointed a member of Council. The Village advertised in the local paper, on social media, the LED sign board, and other public notice avenues to reach out to the community. From these initiatives, four applications were received for the position. Council set the maximum number of committee members at 5.

Since the initial meeting, the Clinton Accessibility Committee has focused on the development of this plan, and the implementation of its feedback mechanism. The committee began by reviewing Village services, and building a consensus on the scope of this plan. The committee established goals for the implementation of this plan, and brainstormed ideas for the improvement of the community, while taking into account the need to include the voices of those Village residents who may be limited in their ability to communicate their needs through conventional means.

The committee discussed the barriers that the Village of Clinton might unintentionally raise for persons with disabilities who are trying to access services. A tour and a public consultation session were conducted.

c. Committee Members and Background

Councillor Nicholas Kosovic served on the committee from its founding to May 2024. During his time on the Committee, Councillor Kosovic was keen to bring energy and ideas to the discussion.

Councillor David Park joined the committee in 2024. As a Councillor and business owner, Councillor Park brings both a governance-focused and business-minded perspective to the committee.

Charlene Boscott is an active member of the community, assisting with such events as the Clinton Annual Ball. Charlene leads a walking group to encourage access to active and social events for seniors during the cold winter months.

Melissa Painter brings a strong volunteer spirit to the Committee, being associated with many groups in town including Clinton Minor Sports Association. Melissa is also able to bring a personal understanding of accessibility challenges to the table because of her experience with family members who face mobility challenges.

Richard Armit is a contractor and volunteer fire fighter, who brings to the Committee his experience with accessibility-related building code requirements. Richard is passionate about ensuring all people have equitable access to services.

Yvette May has a long history of working with seniors. She has been a longstanding volunteer with the Clinton Seniors' Association, helps seniors prepare their taxes, and performs many other volunteer duties in Clinton. Her role as a Vision Nurse with CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) was to help vision-impaired people master coping skills to continue to function independently.

4. Consultation Conducted

a. Accessibility Tour

On Tuesday, September 24, 2024 the Accessibility Committee, along with three members of the public, underwent a tour of select Village facilities. The purpose of the tour was to identify and discuss solutions to some of the barriers that exist at facilities where the Village carries out its operations.

The following are some of the takeaways from the tour. The Village will retain the specific responses from the tour and will be referenced when upgrades to facilities are considered.

- Height considerations for wheelchair users – counters, toilets, picnic tables, coat hooks
- Space to maneuver for wheelchair users, especially on landings
- Doors - levers over knobs, installation and placement of push button entry, gaps and entry lip, sticking mechanisms
- Interior lighting - too high or low can both pose challenges
- Exterior lighting for pathways
- Signage - Higher contrast, larger lettering
- Emergency exits - wheelchair accessible, flashing alarms, large lighted exit signs
- Designated handicap parking spaces

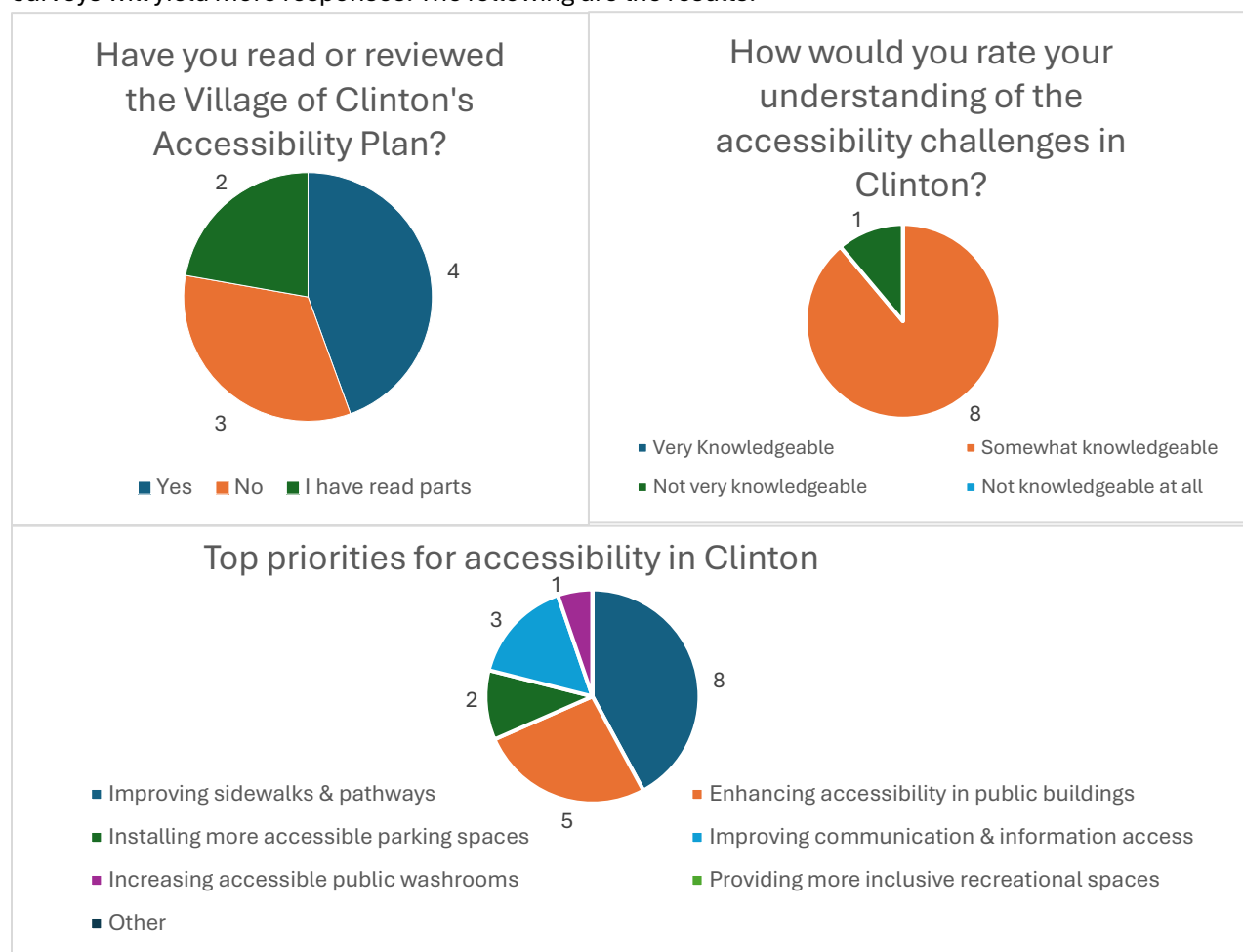
- Stairs - Chair lifts, handrails
- Washrooms – More accessibility supports needed
- Parks – Wider access through fences for wheelchairs
- Gym and recreation – Accessible equipment, signage requesting feedback
- Seating – increased spaces along paths, hallways, and in waiting areas
- Exterior surfaces and paths – smoothing, weeding, path access

We would like to thank all those who assisted with the tour and shared their perspective. The outcomes of the tour will be incorporated into Village design and construction projects.

b. Public Consultation

Survey Results

The Village of Clinton produced a survey in April 2025 and made it available on the Village's website, through social media, and through a mailout to all residents. 10 responses were received. With continued awareness from the Village and the Accessibility committee, the Village is hopeful future surveys will yield more responses. The following are the results:

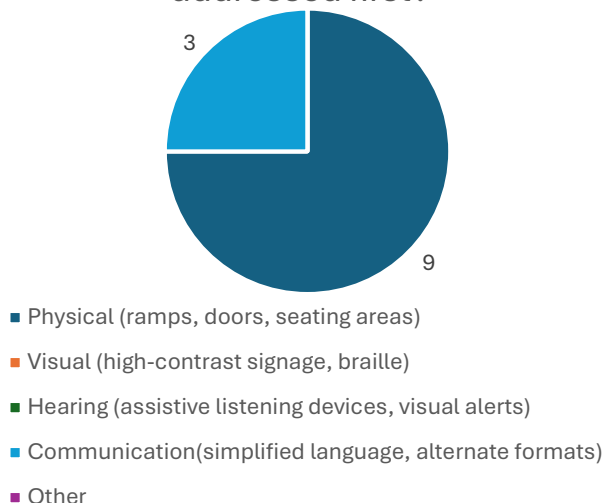


Additional responses to the above question included:

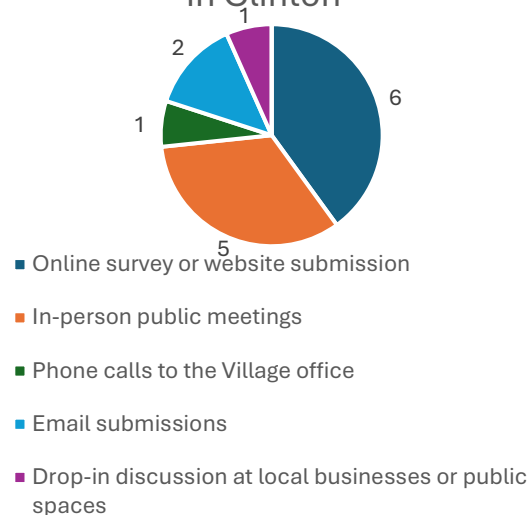
- Shade – Accessibility on Hot Sunny Days, especially at playgrounds

- Potholes at entrance to Reg Conn Park

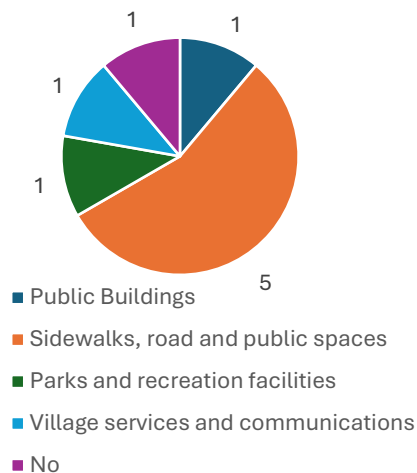
What type of accessibility challenges do you think should be addressed first?



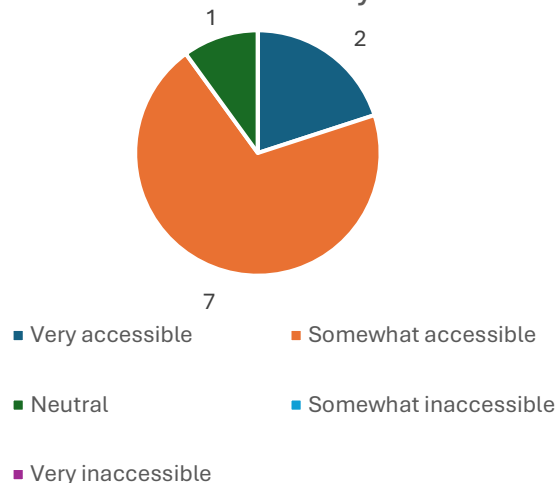
How would you prefer to provide feedback on accessibility issues in Clinton



Have you or someone you know experienced accessibility barriers in Clinton?



How would you rate the Village of Clinton's current accessibility?



Do you have any other concerns, or suggestions regarding accessibility in Clinton?

- Automatic Doors, wheelchair access
- Auto doors at Office and Memorial Hall
- Sidewalks on Cariboo Avenue near Hardware Store and on Smith Avenue near Cordial
- I think the Village is doing a good job already. Public meeting was very informative.
- You are doing a great job. This is a very nice town.

- Enough has been spent on this matter! Spend what money you have on improving the poorly maintained water and sewer system in the Village.
- Winter Snow Removal on all sidewalks. If private property – Bill the owner. No warnings, just clean sidewalks first.

Engagement Session

On April 30, 2025 the Village hosted an open house to discuss the draft Accessibility Plan. In total, seven people attended the event. The following suggestions/feedback were received:

- The Village should host a Coffee with Council session to informally discuss these issues.
- A monthly accessibility-focused update in the Lariat with large print would help raise awareness of accessibility issues.
- Accessing the bulletin board in front of the Village Office is a challenge.
- From Smith avenue to Reg Conn park is bumpy and not very accessible for seniors or people in wheelchairs. Gravel should be cleared where people walk.
- Knock on doors when you want to get information out to residents, as some people do not leave their homes.
- More benches are needed on walking routes, especially Kelly Lake Road.
- Benches should be positioned to be shaded in the afternoon.
- Make sure all information is placed on bulletin board – It is used by many people who do not use the internet.
- Generally Voyent Alert and paper communication is effective.
- Shade sails would make parks more usable in the summer months.
- Wider parking lanes are important for those with mobility issues.
- An accessible parking space is needed at the front of the Memorial Hall.
- Ramps are too steep.

The above survey and engagement session information will be considered by the Village when designing construction projects and planning for repairs. They will also be revisited the next time the Accessibility plan is reviewed.

5. Feedback Mechanism

a. Feedback Mechanism Development

The methods by which the Village should accept feedback on this plan and on the state of its accessibility practices and policies is important to ensure that each person has the ability to express themselves in a meaningful way. To that end, the Village of Clinton, in conjunction with the Accessibility Committee has considered mobility, visual, auditory, cognitive, and verbal impairments and disabilities in establishing the feedback mechanism.

b. Feedback Mechanism: a multi-pronged approach

In order to accept feedback on the Clinton Accessibility Plan, the Village will make all of the following available to residents and employees:

- A form available by request at the front desk;
- A page on the Village's website outlining all the ways feedback can be submitted, including by electronic mail;
- An annual public meeting at a place such as a coffee shop, where comments will be recorded;
- Annual advertisement in the Clinton Lariat outlining all the ways to submit comment;
- A service where residents can have their comments written by staff.

To maximize awareness of these feedback options, the Village will place an advertisement in the Clinton Lariat, place notices on community bulletin boards, post on social media and the Village website, and directly notify local organizations that assist persons with disabilities.

The nature of disabilities mean that no one-size-fits-all approach will work to assess the needs of the people of Clinton. It is important that all respondents are equally able to submit feedback on this important plan.

Feedback will be accepted at all phases of this plan's implementation and updating. Once feedback is submitted, it will be considered by Staff, then forwarded to the Accessibility Committee for consideration at the next update of this plan.

6. Action Plan

The following are a list of actions the Village of Clinton can take to improve accessibility. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but will guide maintenance and accessibility upgrades in the coming years. While most of the action items are allocated to Grant funding, some of these activities may be completed through taxation where it is feasible to do so.

In addition to the following items, the feedback received during the accessibility tour and public engagement session will also be taken into consideration when maintenance, upgrading, and new capital projects are undertaken.

Facilities

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Village Office	Building upgrades, including push-button doors	2026	Grant-funded
	Research options for wall-mounted chair lift for stairs	2028	Grant-funded
	Conduct Accessibility Audit*	2026	Grant-Funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
Clinton Memorial Hall	Building upgrades, including push-button doors	2026	Grant-Funded

	Consider options for improved access to basement storage	2026	N/A
	Conduct Accessibility Audit*	2026	Grant-Funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
Public Works Buildings	Conduct Accessibility Audit*	2026	Grant-Funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
47 Mile Complex	Conduct Accessibility Audit*	2026	Grant-Funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
	Research options for wall-mounted chair lift for Curling Club stairs	2030	Grant-funded
	Purchase wheelchair-friendly tables	2026	Grant-funded
	Building upgrades, including entry ramp to Curling Club	2026	Grant-funded
	Consult with Facility users and groups on ideas to improve built environment and programming accessibility of the arena and Curling Club	2026	N/A
Fire Hall	Conduct Accessibility Audit*	2025	Grant-Funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
Fitness Centre	Conduct Accessibility Audit*	2025	Grant-Funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
	Improvements to entryway and washroom accessibility	2026	Grant-funded
Public Washrooms	Conduct Accessibility Audit*	2025	Grant-Funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
Playground	Consult with Parents and Caregivers on ways to improve playground accessibility	2025	N/A
	Install accessible playground equipment and surfacing	2026	Grant-Funded

Roads and Sidewalks

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Maintenance	Annual condition inspections	Ongoing	N/A
Snow Clearing	Continue to support prompt clearing of municipal sidewalks and road shoulders in residential areas through operations policies and bylaw enforcement	Ongoing	N/A
MOTI Advocacy	Advocate for auditory signals at crosswalks	Ongoing	N/A
Mobility	Consider alternate locations for telephone poles	Ongoing	N/A

Utility Services (Water & Sewer)

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Maintenance	Consider access to services when planning maintenance activities	Ongoing	N/A

Communication	Consider visually impaired residents when notifying community of service interruptions	Ongoing	N/A
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Parks

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Dog Park	Install wheelchair-friendly path	2026	Grant-funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
Elliott Park	Install wheelchair-friendly access to path	2026	Grant-funded
	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A
Reg Conn Park	Annual safety and accessibility inspections**	Ongoing	N/A

Cemetery

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Pioneer Cemetery	Maintain and refresh walking paths	2026	Grant funded
King's Lake Memorial Garden	Ensure any new development or layout is accessible	Ongoing	Grant funded

Licensing/Permitting

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Business Licensing	Provide option to assist applicants in completing applications	2024	N/A
Dog Licensing/Animal Control	Update animal control bylaw to provide free or discounted license for registered assistance animals	2025	N/A
Building Inspection	Approach TNRD about Rick Hansen Foundation building inspection certification	2026	Grant Funded (Requires TNRD involvement)
Bylaw Enforcement	Provide training for staff in accessibility awareness	2025	Grant Funded
Planning Services	Review Zoning bylaw to consider CSA Accessible Parking Standards	2025	Grant funded
	Accessibility Committee to review Village plans and bylaws for accessibility concerns	Ongoing	N/A (Accessibility Committee)

Communication

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Social Media, Signs, and Advertisements	Graphics should include symbols/pictures to assist persons with speech or language barriers.	ongoing	N/A
Employment	Village postings reviewed for inclusivity.	Ongoing	N/A
	Provide training for staff in accessibility awareness	2025	Grant funded

Other	Promote National Accessibility Week (May 26-June 1)	2025	N/A
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Other Services

	Action	Timeline	Funding Source
Economic Development	Work with CCCTA to participate in Accessible Tourism Destination certification.	Ongoing	N/A
Advocacy	Council to consider the diverse needs of residents when advocating at UBCM	Ongoing	N/A
Fire Department	Ensure training for volunteers incorporates awareness of accessibility	2025	N/A
Emergency Management	Consider barriers to accessibility when updating emergency plan	2026	N/A
Website	Website Audit	2025	N/A
Trails	Review Trails Masterplan for accessibility	2025	N/A
Procurement	Research and implement Accessibility Framework in the procurement process	2025	N/A

*Accessibility audits can be performed by the Rick Hansen Foundation or SPARC BC

**Inspections will be performed by Village Staff and designated members of the Accessibility Committee.

7. Our Plan

a. Priorities

- **Priority #1 – Infrastructure**

The Village will work to assess each facility for accessibility. Concerns that arise from these assessments will either be addressed or considered during the next update of this plan. Ensuring that our infrastructure is accessible is fundamental to creating an inclusive environment. This includes making physical modifications to buildings, improving access to public spaces, and ensuring that all new developments meet accessibility standards. By systematically evaluating our facilities, we can identify and prioritize necessary improvements, ensuring that all residents can navigate our village comfortably and safely.

- **Priority #2 – Inclusion & Communication**

Effective communication is essential for inclusion. The Village will consider how it delivers services to residents through a lens of accessibility. We will seek new ways to provide communication that is inclusive and work to dismantle barriers that prevent residents from accessing our services. We will

explore various methods to enhance our communication strategies, ensuring that information is accessible to everyone. This includes providing materials in multiple formats, utilizing assistive technologies, and engaging with the community to understand their needs. By prioritizing inclusive communication, we can ensure that all residents are informed, heard, and able to engage with Village services and activities.

These priorities reflect our ongoing commitment to making the Village of Clinton a welcoming and accessible place for everyone. We will continue to listen to feedback, adapt our strategies, and work towards a more inclusive future.

b. Monitoring

A monitoring report will be produced on an annual basis and be delivered at the first accessibility committee meeting of the year.

c. Evaluating

The organization will conduct a review and evaluation of the accessibility plan every three years from adoption (2025). This plan will be made public on our website within 2 weeks of adoption.

8. Conclusion

The Village of Clinton is dedicated to identifying and removing barriers within our community. Citizen feedback plays a crucial role in this process and serves as an invaluable resource for our staff and Council during annual budget and capital project planning discussions.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the members of our committee and our other volunteers. Their personal experiences and insights have been instrumental in highlighting the challenges faced by those with diverse abilities. Their time, expertise, compassion, and empathy have laid the groundwork for this plan, ensuring it serves as a valuable reference for future conversations.