

Accessibility Agenda Survey (2008.09.30)

Warren Reed (as well as Lynn Reed, Allan Robertson, Trish Gavin, and Lois Miller) representing the James McGregor Stewart Society (<http://jmcgs.blogspot.com>)

Thank you for your initial September 24, 2008 email, and the multiple follow ups. Since then I have also visited your blog site.

We have not met and I am unsure if you interpret the "Agenda for Access" text as being a long term vision to be incrementally achieved; a short term contract to be executed or implemented immediately; or as something and somewhere in between.

My past includes a detailed consideration and implications of text associated with liability, insurance, responsibilities, and enforceable contracts. There are sometimes unintended consequences when the detailed letter of an agreement or commitment is executed. There can be many surprises, deflected intent, and changing uncertainties in this world. So I come to the table with some reservations and reluctance about using text that is peppered with terms such as "all" or "must" in a command and control tone.

I find that available resources are most effectively used when there are clear long term performance goals, and there is flexibility in the approaches that can be considered in achieving these goals. This would also reduce the opportunity for unintended consequences that may be the result when one focuses too much on "how to get there" as opposed to the "where we are going."

While I have some indicated reservations about the exact wording and unintended interpretations, please accept this email as my support for implementing what I believe is the intent, spirit, and vision for the future, being conveyed through this "Agenda for Access." With respect to Accessibility in particular, or to other circumstances in general, a greater variety in participation, yields a healthier, sustainable, long term result for all.

- Cameron Ells
HRM Regional Council Candidate for Downtown Halifax (District 12)

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Halifax ExCELLS
with Cameron Ells

Cameron Ells for Councillor - Downtown Halifax

-----Original Message-----

From: Warren Reed [mailto:wcreedh@gmail.com]

Sent: September 24, 2008 5:12 PM

To: halifax@excells.ca

Subject: {Disarmed} HRM Council Candidate - Agenda for Accessibility Endorsement

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1. <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pJlyFtxa8-Q8UDdxwPHmRTg>

HRM Council Candidate - Agenda for Accessibility Endorsement

Dear HRM Council Candidate,

It is estimated that 20% of voters in Nova Scotia live with a disability. In order to achieve a fully accessible and barrier free HRM, the James McGregor Stewart Society seeks your support for some important measures. Most of these measures require only common sense and consideration of the needs of disabled Haligonians.

We will post the names of candidates, their indication or absence of support and their comments on our website <http://jmcgs.blogspot.com/> . To make this as easy as possible, you can submit your response and comment below.

If elected to the HRM Regional Council, during my term I will support the following measures to ensure a more accessible Halifax:

- **Government**

1. All public meetings must be held in accessible locations, with appropriate amenities (signers, accessible washrooms) served by scheduled and accessible public transportation.
2. There will be continuing emphasis on HRM website accessibility
3. There will be an accessibility section in the Annual Report, detailing accomplishments
4. HRM sponsored or funded events will be accessible to everyone

Cameron Ells for Councillor - Downtown Halifax

- **Infrastructure**

1. The HRM Municipal Service System Guidelines (Redbook) will be continually monitored to include modern standards of accessible design for infrastructure
2. Heritage properties which are public accommodations will have a plan for accessibility
3. HRM will develop plans to eliminate barriers in currently Inaccessible public facilities and budget accordingly

- **Municipal Services**

1. A fully accessible public transportation system, including taxis, remains one of HRM's highest priorities
2. Public Safety and services must pay special attention to the needs of people with disabilities – for example:
 - Include disability considerations in snow removal standards (curb cut clearing, bus platforms, tactile clues)
 - zero tolerance for crimes against disabled people
 - Emergency measures should address planning and protection for disabled people.

Thank you for supporting a Halifax that is accessible to everyone. Please respond below (or check at the top of this message to see if your browser may be blocking the form) .