




Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair & Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	May 2, 2019
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Information on the Installation of Hearing Loops in Public Facilities (HUR17023(a)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Jessica Bowen (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5164 Jodi Koch (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3003
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Lora Fontana Executive Director Human Resources
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction

At the December 7, 2017 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting, staff were directed to:

Develop an inventory of existing public assembly areas within the City of Hamilton with sound systems and microphones to be presented to the Emergency & Community Services Committee, and that priority locations for hearing loops installation, costs and potential funding sources be identified (including government grants).

## Information

The Senior Leadership Team appointed various designates from their respective areas to provide the information requested for compilation.

## Public Assembly Areas

Based on a survey of all departments, the City of Hamilton staff identified the following existing public assembly areas that are equipped with sound system(s) and microphones. The inventory is outlined below:

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*OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

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1. Provincial Offences Building (50 Main Street East);
2. Ancaster Old Town Hall (310 Wilson Street East);
3. Coach House at Dundurn (610 York Blvd);
4. Woodshed at the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology (900 Woodward Ave);
5. Council Chambers (71 Main Street West);
6. City Hall Meeting Rooms 192 and 193 (71 Main Street West).

### **Service Counters**

There are also a number of service counters that were identified in City facilities. They are located at the following:

1. Three (3) customer service counters at the Hamilton GO Centre (36 Hunter Street East)
2. Cemetery Administrative Office (777 York Boulevard)
3. Building Division (City Hall, 3rd Floor)
4. Planning Division (City Hall, 5th floor)
5. Growth Management Division (City Hall, 6th floor)
6. SBEC/One Stop counters (City Hall, 1st floor)
7. Parking Operations (Summers Lane)
8. Licensing and Bylaw Division (77 James Suite 250)

### **Facilities with Hearing Loops Currently Installed**

Some City facilities have already installed hearing loops. They include:

1. Macassa Lodge Auditorium (701 Upper Sherman Avenue)
2. Sackville Seniors Centre in the (i) Fireside Lounge, (ii) Meeting Room, (iii) Fitness Room (780 Upper Wentworth Street)
3. Dundas Library (18 Ogilvie Street).

### **Priority locations for hearing loop installation**

- Bernie Morelli gym or meeting room (876 Cannon Street East)
- Flamborough Senior Centre meeting space (163 Dundas St E)
- Ancaster Seniors Achievement Centre (622 Alberton Road South)
- City Council Chambers and Galleries
- City Hall Meeting Rooms 192 and 193

## **Installation Cost**

The cost of installing hearing loops is dependent on several factors, including the size of the room, seating layout (fixed or moveable), floor construction (concrete or wood), type of flooring and room usage. The cost will be further impacted depending on whether the hearing loop would form part of a new build and can be designed and constructed as part of the project or if this would be a retrofit, which would impact costs as well as operations.

Preliminary estimates on installing hearing loops in Council Chambers including both galleries and Council Circle, totalled approximately \$16,000. The estimate for meeting rooms 192 and 193 was approximately \$7000.

Before planning for installation, an evaluation would be required to determine the feasibility in the identified building/space and to ensure that proper sound clarity is possible. Each department would be required to investigate and pursue through applicable procurement processes and budget or funding availability.

## **Funding Sources**

1. Under Employment and Social Development Canada, the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) is a possible funding source. The (EAF) provides funding for eligible capital projects that increase accessibility for people with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces, creating more opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community activities, programs and services, or access employment opportunities. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/enabling-accessibility-fund.html>
2. Funding may be available through the provincial governments EnAbling Change Program which provides funding for educational projects that promote accessibility for people with disabilities. The program provides financial support and expertise to incorporated non-profit organizations, such as industry umbrella organizations and professional associations that have wide reach to help obligated organizations comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). <http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantOpportunities/P/RDR006997>

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