

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
GRAND RIVER ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(GRAAC)**

The purpose of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (the “ODA”) is to eliminate barriers for people with disabilities. It requires Ontario municipalities with populations of 10,000 or more to set up accessibility advisory committees. At least 50% of members are to be persons with disabilities. This ensures that the people most affected by barriers in the community are involved in the identification, removal and prevention of those barriers. In accordance with the ODA, the Councils of the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley and Woolwich and the Region of Waterloo set up the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) to provide advice on accessibility issues.

GRAAC members are appointed by consensus of the area councils and each member serves for a 3-year term (renewable). GRAAC currently meets on the fourth Thursday of each month 1:30 – 4:00 pm at the City of Kitchener office located at 200 King Street West in Kitchener. Please review the Committee’s terms of reference for additional information about purpose and membership.

Each member of GRAAC acts as an independent representative to GRAAC and does not represent the concerns of only one disability or group.

If you need assistance completing this application, please call your municipal or regional representative listed on the last page of the application.

ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Occupation: _____

Telephone Numbers: Res: _____ Bus: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

- | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a current member of GRAAC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a previous member of GRAAC FROM _____ TO _____ |

DISABILITY STATUS

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires that at least 50% of the membership on an accessibility advisory committee shall be persons with disabilities. Check the most appropriate statement to describe yourself:

- I am a person with a disability.
- I am a caregiver for a person with a disability.
- I do not have a disability and I am not a caregiver but I am interested in disability issues.

KNOWLEDGE OF BARRIER-FREE INITIATIVES AND DISABILITY ISSUES

Members are chosen for their life experience with a disability, knowledge of barriers in the community, and/or knowledge of disability issues. With this in mind, it would be helpful for you to identify your life experience with a disability or with disability issues. Describe your knowledge of barriers in the community, barrier-free initiatives and disability issues.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE AND/OR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Please describe your current or past involvement with community advisory committees and/or boards. Provide the names of at least one committee or organization you are or were involved with and the purpose of the committee along with your role on the Committee and some initiatives that you worked on.

NAME AND PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE/ORGANIZATION	ROLE ON THE COMMITTEE	INITIATIVES INVOLVED WITH	DATES FROM/TO

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Describe education, skills, achievements and/or experience that would be a resource to GRAAC. Are you familiar with Parliamentary Procedure and/or Roberts Rules of Order?

MUNICIPAL EXPERIENCE

It helps for GRAAC members to have an understanding of the framework in which municipalities operate. Please provide details if you have had any experiences that have helped you develop an understanding of Regional and/or Municipal Government.

REFERENCES

If possible, provide the names of one or two professional references who would talk about your ability to work as part of a committee or team.

May we contact your reference(s)? YES ___ NO___

Name of Reference and Relationship to Applicant	Phone Number(s)

VOLUNTEER TIME COMMITMENT

Any information you can provide about your availability would be beneficial to the selection committee. It is important to note that the time commitment for GRAAC volunteers is approximately **15-20 hours** each month. This includes attendance at monthly GRAAC meeting (2-2.5 hours), sub-committee work and meeting preparation time.

- *I have approximately _____ hours each month to commit to GRAAC meetings and sub-committee work.*

APPLICANT'S RESIDENCY

GRAAC applicants do not need to live in Waterloo Region but preference is given to Regional residents who live in a municipality that supports the committee. What municipality do you live in?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Kitchener | <input type="checkbox"/> Township of Woolwich |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Waterloo | <input type="checkbox"/> City of Cambridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Township of North Dumfries | <input type="checkbox"/> I live outside of the Region of Waterloo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Township of Wellesley | <input type="checkbox"/> I live outside of the Region of Waterloo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Township of Wilmot | but I work in Waterloo Region |

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee
c/o Inclusion Services, Kitchener City Hall, 7th Floor
P.O Box 1118, 200 King Street West, Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7
Or fax to 519-741-2723

Website Information

Visit www.graac.ca for more information about GRAAC, its Terms of Reference, and information about Provincial legislation.

For Further Assistance

Staff of the participating municipalities are available to answer your questions about the GRAAC application process. You may contact:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Region of Waterloo: | Vanessa Lopak | 519-883-2302/TTY 519-883-2428 |
| Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo: | Kelly Steiss | 519-741-2226 |
| | | TTY 1-866-786-3941 ext 444 |
| Township of North Dumfries | Darryl Denny | 519-621-0340 |
| Township of Wellesley | Rik Louwagie | 519-699-4611 |
| Township of Woolwich: | Val Hummel | 519-669-6005 |