

# City of Mississauga

## Memorandum




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Date: 2020/10/29

To: Chair and Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Dan Sadler, Supervisor, Accessibility Planning and Compliance

Subject: Treat Accessibly

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On September 21, 2020, the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) members received a deputation from Rich Padulo, Founder of Treat Accessibly, asking for the AAC to endorse the initiative. The deputation included a presentation outlining the history of the initiative and information on municipalities and organizations endorsing participation in 2020. The AAC received the presentation and requested a memo on the program and to benchmark with other municipalities regarding endorsement.

### Background

Treat Accessibly's aim is to encourage residents and their communities to celebrate Halloween in an accessible and inclusive way. The organization provides a number of tips on how to do this including:

- Setting up a trick or treat station in an area outside such as the end of a driveway or garage, eliminating the use of front doors and stairs
- Placing an Accessible Trick or treating sign on outside in advance of Halloween
- Establishing a clear, well lit path to the trick or treat station

Established in 2017, Treat Accessibly grew to over 25,000 homes participating across Canada in 2019. With corporate support from The Home Depot Canada and RE/MAX to distribute free signs across Canada, the number of participating homes is expected to grow to over 200,000 in 2020.

### Present Status

On October 19, 2020, the Government of Ontario recommended against traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating in Ottawa, Peel, Toronto and York Region. For individuals living outside of these areas, the province has provided [suggestions](#) on how to celebrate this year. Prior to the province's recommendations, Treat Accessibly was endorsed by the following organizations:

- Government of Ontario
- City of Toronto
- City of Hamilton
- City of Oshawa
- City of St. Catharines
- City of Brampton
- Easter Seals
- Variety Village
- Rick Hansen Foundation
  - In addition to endorsing the initiative, the foundation co-developed five free online Halloween themed activities called Little Big Lessons

Please let me know if you have any questions about the initiative.

Thank you.

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Dan Sadler, Supervisor, Accessibility Planning and Compliance