

UPDATES

So far, each month there has been a theme to the newsletters. This month, we wanted to update you on some of the initiatives that have gone on with Queens Coast Diversity and Inclusion and Queens Coast Accessibility. The last few months have been especially busy with Diversity and Inclusion, and it is amazing to see the support for the projects we've been doing.

Small Grants Program

These grants help organizations fund projects, initiatives, or events that help create inclusivity in Queens. There have been three grants given to community groups to date: helping youth feel included in a common interest for theatre; supporting a Mawio'mi in Liverpool on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and helping recreational programming in North Queens for all in the communities.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In September, Region of Queens Council passed a bylaw that declared September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a civic holiday. For that day, municipal operations and facilities are closed, excluding required functions, to allow staff and Council for a day of reflection and commemoration. For the first National Truth and Reconciliation Day, a new flag pole was installed at Region of Queens Administration Building to have the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag permanently flown.

Policy Review

As part of their role, the Diversity and Inclusion Action Team (DIAT) and the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator provide recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer and Council over inclusive practices and policies. As such, a lot of work has been happening to review municipal policies and practices to recommend inclusive practices. One such policy that was changed was the Flag Policy. The new Flag Policy can be viewed on the Region of Queens website.

Community Outreach

Earlier this year, DIAT released a community survey to help guide our work. From that, we have been planning and making community connections to help make change. Also, the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator and the Accessibility Coordinator have visited many local businesses and organizations to introduce ourselves.

One project that DIAT hopes to help with is the creation of a Queens County Pride group, so we are asking that if anybody is interested in being part of this to help create a more inclusive environment for the 2SLGBTQ+ people of Queens County, please contact Eric at diversity@regionofqueens.com.

DID YOU KNOW:

November is Indigenous Disability Awareness Month

A relatively new initiative was embraced by Mayor Mike Savage and Halifax Regional Council when the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disabilities Society (BCANDS) sent a letter asking them to recognize the month through a Proclamation. The Proclamation was signed and dated on November 1st, 2021. More information is can be found at <http://www.bcands.bc.ca/indigenous-disability-awareness-month-idam/>



Disability Supports in Queens County:

Queens County Transit has 2 accessible vans since the summer, with one parked at AFN Medway for North Queens. Go to <https://qct.ruralrides.ca/> for prices and to book a ride.

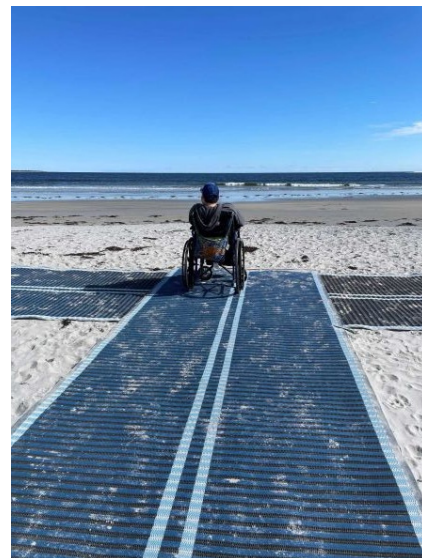
There is also a new **Home Support Office** in Caledonia, located in the former Credit Union building on Highway 8. The official opening took place September 27.



Grants supporting Recreation & Wellness

The provincial **Community Access-Ability** grant paid for new MOBI mats for municipal beach in Beach Meadows! It allows those with mobility challenges to enjoy the health benefits of visiting a beach but will have to be removed during bad weather.

The **Community Health Board** supported some Hobby Development sessions with Wellness grant funding. Six sessions provided supported social activities to people who were especially isolated by Covid restrictions. Residents with a range of disabilities painted, sculpted, planted, made flower arrangements and partook in drama activities, all in accessible environments. Remaining funds will allow for a few more sessions, so be in touch if interested! For more information on these or other initiatives, contact Elise at ejohnston@regionofqueens.com.



Special Awareness Days/Months

November 5 - 11 - Veterans' Week

November 11 - Remembrance Day

November 13 - 19 - Transgender Awareness Week

November 10 - International Day of Tolerance

November 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 23 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

