



Media Release

New Accessible Transit Vans presented to Community Reach

September 25, 2020 – Accessible transit in our region received a large boost today, as the Town of Midland and Simcoe North MPP Jill Dunlop presented Community Reach with two new accessible transit vans. The vans will help Community Reach continue to provide access to barrier-free transportation for residents in North Simcoe.

The accessible transit vans were funded, in part, by the federal and provincial governments through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The Town of Midland received news in April 2020 that it had been approved for a combined \$568,309 for two projects under the Public Transit stream, in addition to a \$36,630 investment previously announced in August 2019.

“The Town of Midland is fully committed to ensuring our town is accessible to all residents and being able to purchase these new accessible transit vans goes a long way in furthering those efforts,” said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. “The Town will add a new transit bus to our Mid-Pen Transit service next year, and work is currently underway on completing an online transit portal that will provide both accessible and conventional transit riders with access to scheduling, vehicle tracking, and online transit smartcard reloading. Combined with these new accessible transit vans, Midland will have a much more reliable and user-friendly transit service to get residents where they need to go.”

“We are fortunate to have Community Reach provide critical transit services for people with accessibility challenges in the Town of Midland,” said Simcoe North MPP Jill Dunlop. “The addition of these new specialized vans through ICIP funding, is an exciting project which will allow access for more people to move around the community.”

“We have experienced some breakdowns with a couple of the aging Midland Accessible Transit vans so these new vans will be reliable and ultimately safer going into the winter months,” said Cathy Greer, Executive Director of Community Reach. “Ride requests doubled from 7,072 in 2018 to 13,128 in 2019 so these new vans will be a great asset to help serve the increasing demand on our fleet.”

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is a federal-provincial cost-sharing program which includes up to \$30 billion in federal, provincial and other partner funding over 10 years. Ontario’s share per project will be up to 33.33 per cent or about \$10.2 billion spread across four streams: 1. Rural and Northern, 2. Public Transit, 3. Green, 4. Community, Culture and Recreation.



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Attachment: Photos of ceremony

Accessible Transit Van hand over to Community Reach

Mayor Stewart Strathearn and MPP Jill Dunlop handing over the accessible van keys to Rick Ignas (far left) and Jim Walker (far right) from Community Reach.



Mayor Strathearn speaking about the positive impact these new accessible transit vans will have on our community. With MPP Jill Dunlop (left) and Tammy Stadt, Chair of the Midland Accessibility Advisory Committee (right).

MPP Dunlop and Mayor Strathearn with staff of Community Reach and members of the Midland Accessibility Advisory Committee.