

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sarah Telford. I was born and raised in Merrickville - it is my home. Unfortunately, due to complications with childhood cancer treatment, I now require use of a wheelchair. As a person with lived experience, I have put my condition to use by advocating for accessibility. I am a member of the accessibility committee at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, am chair of the Merrickville Lions Club Accessibility Committee as well as have spoken at conferences and meeting about accessibility. I have seen many projects through that have benefitted their communities by providing access to those with mobility impairments.

Given my disability, I have not been able to fully interact with my community. Unfortunately, as a historic village, there are challenges in addressing accessibility needs. However, there are also opportunities to do so and now more than ever it is important to shop and support local businesses. One of the opportunities is to have a fully accessible bathroom in the downtown area.

I am writing this letter to show my support for the proposed project for an accessible washroom in the downtown core. This is a positive move forward towards greater accessibility for visitors, residents and contractors/workers within the village.

Thank you for supporting this initiative as we work to improve accessibility in our village.

Thank you,
Sarah Telford