



GEORGINA

Subject: Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant Application Update

To: Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Simone Lopreiato-Weinstein, Program Manager

Date: May 5, 2026

Briefing:

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility launched its 2026 Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) call for proposals on March 25, 2026, offering up to \$60,000 at 100% cost-share towards improvements to outdoor spaces and the built environment, to increase accessibility for people with disabilities and older adults to wider community engagement and inclusion. The detailed guidelines can be found here: [EASE webpage](#).

Staff identified that the application with the highest chances of success is the installation of a stair lift at the Stephen Leacock Theatre. This project was selected based on the grant guidelines and the grants selection process and vetting criteria outlined in the Grant Administration Policy (Policy No. DCAO-2024-GAP02).

The project would install a stair lift along the front interior steps up to the theatre. Currently, there is no accessible way to enter the front entrance of the theatre. For people using wheelchairs or with mobility issues, there is a ramp through the back entrance that was installed as a 'band-aid solution' and was never meant to be used by visitors. The current configuration requires that theatregoers exit the theatre and navigate up uneven pavement to enter through the back. There have been numerous complaints over the lack of an appropriate accessible entrance, and some patrons have commented that this entrance option deters them from visiting the theatre altogether. Installing a stair lift at the front entrance will solve this problem and address the safety and convenience concerns. It will create a fully accessible pathway to the theatre, providing a safe and dignified way for the theatregoers with mobility issues to attend the theatre. Club 55 Keswick shares a building with the Stephen Leacock Theatre and its members will also benefit from the upgrade. With these improvements, it is expected that more seniors and people with mobility issues will attend the theatre and enjoy the cultural programming and events.

Staff request that the Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee endorse and support the grant application for a stair lift at the Stephen Leacock Theatre.

The application is due May 7, 2026, and endorsing this resolution will strengthen the application as it shows the Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee's support of the grant application and selected project.