

Integrated Accessibility Standards

Department:	Entire Municipality	Policy Number:	A22-0100-12
Section:	Municipal	Effective Date:	Nov. 13, 2012
Subject:	Accessibility	Revised Date:	June 17, 2013
Authority:	Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005		

Purpose

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 all public and private sector organizations must meet the requirements of accessibility standards established by regulation. This policy establishes the Integrated Accessibility Standards in the areas of Employment, Information and Communications, and Transportation for the Municipality of Brockton (Brockton) in accordance with Ontario Regulation 191/11 and with the Ministry of Community and Social Services intent to “streamline, align and phase-in accessibility requirements and allow for progress on accessibility and reduce the regulatory burden for obligated organizations”. This regulation came into force on July 1, 2011.

Scope and Responsibilities

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Regulation and addresses how Brockton achieves accessibility through meeting the Regulation’s requirements. It provides the overall strategic direction that we will follow to provide accessibility supports to Ontarians with disabilities. The requirements of the Regulation include:

- Establishment, implementation, maintenance and documentation of a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the organization’s strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under the Regulation.
- Incorporation of accessibility criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services, or facilities.
- Training
- Other specific requirements under the Employment, Information and Communications, and Transportation Standards.

Policy Statement and Organizational Commitment

Brockton is committed and guided by the four core principles of dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity and supports the full inclusion of persons as set out in Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Brockton shall use every effort to ensure that we meet the needs of people with disabilities, in a timely manner, through the implementation of this policy.

Definitions

“Accessible Formats” may include, but are not limited to, large print, recorded audio and electronic formats, Braille and other formats usable by persons with disabilities; (“format accessible”).

“Accommodation” means the special arrangement made or assistance provided so that persons with disabilities can participate in the experiences available to persons without disabilities. Accommodation will vary depending on the person’s unique needs.

“Communication Supports” may include, but are not limited to, captioning, alternative and augmentative communication supports, plain language, sign language and other supports that facilitate effective communications.

“Communications” means the interaction between two or more persons or entities, or any combination of them, where information is provided, sent or received.

“Conversion Ready” means an electronic or digital format that facilitates conversion into an accessible format.

“Designated Public Sector Organization” means every municipality and every person or organization listed in Column 1 of Table 1 of Ontario Regulation 146/10 (Public Bodies and Commission Public Bodies — Definitions) made under the Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006.

“IAP” means Individualized Accommodation Plan.

“Information” includes data, facts and knowledge that exists in any format, including text, audio, digital or images, and that conveys meaning.

“Internet Website” means a collection of related web pages, images, videos or other digital assets that are addressed relative to a common Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and is accessible to the public.

“Maintenance” means activities that are intended to keep existing public spaces and elements in existing public spaces in good working order or to restore the spaces or elements to their original condition, examples of which include painting and minor repairs

“Mobility Aid” means a device used to facilitate the transport, in a seated posture, of a person with a disability.

“Mobility Assistive Device” means a cane, walker, wheelchair, scooter or similar aid.

“New Internet Website” means either a website with a new domain name or a website with an existing domain name undergoing a significant refresh.

“Recreational Trails” means the public pedestrian trails that are intended for recreational and leisure purposes

“Redeployment” means the reassignment of employees to other departments or jobs within the organization as an alternative to layoff when a particular job or department has been eliminated.

“Unconvertible” means

- a) Not technically feasible to convert the information or communications;
- b) That technology to convert the information or communications is not readily available.

“Web Content Accessibility Guidelines” means the World Wide Web consortium recommendation, dated December 2008, and entitled “Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0”.

General Provisions

I. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Brockton Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines a phased-in strategy to prevent and remove barriers and addresses the current and future requirements of the AODA. Brockton will report annually on the progress and implementation of the plan, will post the information on its website and will provide it in alternative formats upon request. The plan will be reviewed and updated at least once every five (5) years.

II. Procuring or Acquiring Goods, Services or Facilities

Brockton will use accessibility criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities, except where it is not practical to do so (in which case, if requested, we will provide an explanation).

III. Training

Brockton will ensure that training is provided to all employees and regular fee-for-service staff on the requirements of the accessibility standards referred to in the Regulation and on the Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities. Training will be provided as soon as practicable. If any changes are made to this policy or the requirements, training will be provided. We shall maintain a record of the dates when training is provided and the number of individuals to whom it was provided.

Information and Communications Standard

Brockton will create, provide and receive information and communications in ways that are accessible to people with disabilities.

If Brockton determines that it is not technically feasible to convert the information or communications, or the technology to convert the information or communication is not readily available, we will be obligated to provide the person that requires the information with:

- a) An explanation as to why the information or communications are unconvertible
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- b) A summary of the unconvertible information or communications.

Emergency Information

If Brockton prepares emergency procedures, plans and/or public safety information and makes the information available to the public, we shall provide the information in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports, as soon as practicable, upon request.

Feedback

Brockton has processes in place for receiving and responding to feedback and will ensure that those processes are provided in accessible formats and with communication supports, upon request. We will notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports.

Accessible Formats and Communication Supports

Brockton shall be obligated to provide or arrange for accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities:

- a) Upon request, in a timely manner, that takes into account the person's accessibility needs due to a disability.
- b) At a cost that is no more than the regular cost charged to other persons.
- c) Consult with the person making the request and determine suitability of an accessible format or communication support.
- d) Notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports.

Website Accessibility

Brockton shall make its internet website and web content conform with the World Wide Web consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 initially at Level A and increasing to Level AA. By January 1, 2014, any new web content will conform to WCAG 2.0 Level A. By January 1, 2021 all internet website and web content will conform to WCAG 2.0 Level AA.

Employment Standard

The Employment Standard builds upon the existing requirements under the Ontario Human Rights Code in relation to how to accommodate individuals with disabilities throughout the job application process and the employment relationship. It applies with respect to employees and does not apply to volunteers and other unpaid individuals.

The requirements of the Employment Standard shall be met by January 1, 2014, unless otherwise specified.

Recruitment

Brockton shall notify employees and the public about the availability of accommodations for applicants with disabilities:

- During the recruitment process when job applicants are individually selected to participate in an assessment or selection process.

- If a selected applicant requests an accommodation, Brockton shall consult with the applicant and provide and/or arrange for the provision of a suitable accommodation that takes into account the applicant's disability.
- Notify successful applicants of the policies for accommodating employees with disabilities.

Employee Notification

Brockton shall inform its employees of the policies used to support its employees with disabilities, including but not limited to, policies on the provision of job accommodations that take into account an employee's accessibility needs due to a disability:

- As required, to new employees as soon as practicable after they begin their employment;
- Whenever there is a change to existing policies on the provision of job accommodations that take into account an employee's accessibility needs due to a disability.

Accessible Formats

In addition, where an employee with a disability requests it, Brockton will consult with the employee to provide and/or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports for:

- Information that is needed in order to perform the employee's job.
- Information that is generally available to employees in the workplace.
- Consult with the employee making the request to determine the suitability of an accessible format or communication support.

Individual Accommodation Plan

Brockton shall have in place a written process for developing a documented individual accommodation plan (IAP) for employees with a disability. The process will include:

- The employee's participation in the development of the IAP.
 - Assessment on an individual basis.
 - Identification of accommodations to be provided.
 - Timeline(s) for the provision of accommodations.
 - Brockton may request an evaluation by an outside medical or other expert, at its expense, to assist with determining accommodation and how to achieve accommodation.
 - Employee may request the participation of a representative from his/her bargaining agent, where represented, or otherwise, a representative from the workplace not from a bargaining agent.
 - Steps to be taken to protect the privacy of the employee's personal information.
 - Frequency with which the IAP will be reviewed and updated and the manner in which it will be done.
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- If denied, the reasons for denial are to be provided to the employee.
- A format that takes into account the employee's disability needs.
- If requested, any information regarding accessible formats and communication supports provided.
- Identification of any other accommodation that is to be provided.

Return to Work

Brockton will have in place a return to work process for employees who have been absent from work due to a disability and require disability-related accommodation in order to return to work. This process must be documented and must outline the steps that Brockton will take to facilitate the return to work and include an IAP.

Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment

Brockton will take into account the accommodation needs and/or IAPs of employees when:

- Using performance management processes.
- Providing career development and advancement information.
- Using redeployment procedures.

Workplace Emergency Response Information

Brockton shall provide individualized workplace emergency response information to employees who have a disability:

- If the disability is such that the individualized information is necessary and the employer is aware of the need for accommodation due to the employee's disability.
- If the employee who receives individual workplace emergency response information requires assistance and with the employee's consent, Brockton shall provide the workplace emergency information to the person designated by Brockton to provide assistance to the employee.
- As soon as practicable after becoming aware of the need for accommodation due to the employee's disability.
- Review the individualized workplace emergency response information when the employee moves to a different location in the organization, when overall accommodation needs or plans are reviewed and when the employer reviews its general emergency response policies.

Transportation Standard

The Transportation Standard will make it easier for people to travel in Ontario, including persons with disabilities, older Ontarians and families traveling with children in strollers. Brockton will:

- Ensure taxicabs do not charge a higher fare or additional fee to persons with disabilities.
- Ensure taxicabs do not charge a fee for storage of assistive devices.

- Ensure taxicabs have appropriate information displayed on the rear bumper and available in an accessible format to passengers.

Design of Public Spaces

The Municipality of Brockton commits to ensure that the Public Spaces Design meet accessibility requirements according to Regulation 413/12.

The Municipality shall incorporate accessibility into Public Spaces that are newly constructed or redeveloped on and after January 1, 2016. We will ensure that we follow the existing requirements stated under the Design of Public Spaces Standards (Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment) for recreational trails and beach access routes, outdoor public use eating areas, outdoor play spaces, exterior paths of travel, accessible parking, and service related elements (counters, waiting areas, etc.) When developing recreational trails the Municipality shall consult with the public and persons with disabilities. The Municipality shall also provide maintenance and restoration of public spaces by ensuring our multi-year accessibility plan includes procedures for preventative and emergency maintenance of accessible elements in public spaces and procedures for dealing with temporary disruptions when accessible elements required under this section are not in working order.

Being a public sector organization, accessibility reports shall be provided every two (2) years.

Regulatory Requirements

An Administrative Monetary Penalties scheme is being established under the AODA. The scheme will allow a director or designate to:

- Issue an order against a person, organization or corporation to pay a penalty amount as a result of non-compliance with the AODA and/or the Accessibility Standards. The largest penalty amount that can be issued to an individual or an organization that is not a corporation is \$50,000.00.
- Establish an Administrative Monetary Penalties Program that prescribes the administrative penalties.
- Use of administrative monetary penalties will be considered an avenue of last resort when all other compliance assistance and improvement options have been exhausted.
- Designate the License Appeal Tribunal (LAT) to hear appeals of Directors Orders under the AODA.
- The LAT will hear appeals from organizations of director's orders but not individual complaints. Individuals who feel their human rights have not been met would continue to lodge a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.