

ACCESSIBILITY



ACCESSIBILITY

Improving opportunities for people with disabilities and providing for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province.



*Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board*

THE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (AODA)

- ❖ Provincial Legislation - Bill 144, passed in 2004
- ❖ Outlines regulations to strengthen accessibility standards and make Ontario fully accessible by 2025

BARRIERS

A barrier is anything that stops a person with a disability from fully taking part in society. The Accessibility Directorate recognizes these seven barriers.

- ❖ **Architectural**
building design, size of doorways, room shape
- ❖ **Physical**
doors, windows, elevators, furniture, workstations, recreational facilities, playgrounds, bathrooms
- ❖ **Communication**
receiving information in person or by telephone, interacting with staff
- ❖ **Information**
signage, brochures, forms, manuals, websites, fax transmissions, equipment labels, computers
- ❖ **Policy**
rules, regulations and protocols, restricting public participation
- ❖ **Attitudinal**
attitude and how to communicate with people with disabilities
- ❖ **Technology**
computers, photocopies, fax machines, telephones, switches, assistive technology



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Developed Board Accessibility policy
- ❖ Completed School Audits to identify barriers and recommended strategies to remove them
- ❖ Developed procedures for staff to identify needs and supports required
- ❖ Provided specialized equipment for students - hearing aids, computers, changetables etc.
- ❖ Produced resource binders for each school - "Accessibility Awareness Activities"
- ❖ Provided activities and workshops during National Accessibility Week

BOARD AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Speakers Forum on Disabilities
- ❖ Workshops by Associations that support persons with Disabilities
- ❖ School Audits
- ❖ Simulations to help others walk in the shoes of disabled persons
- ❖ Extra Curricular involvement for students with disabilities
- ❖ Training for bus drivers on strategies to work with various exceptionalities
- ❖ Demonstrations and presentations on equipment, programs and/or services at Catholic School Council meetings
- ❖ Resources shared including books such as "Wendy Blair, Not a Chair", "My Brother has Down Syndrome"
- ❖ Demonstrations by students and/or staff to promote the assistive technologies available



ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Deb Heslinga Special Education Co-ordinator

Committee Members

Rita Collins Educational Assistant
Kathy Dunne Easter Seals/SEAC
Debbie Harrison Secondary Teacher
Lenore Hickey Transportation STSCO
Mike Kaszuba Technology Support Staff
Anne Lanz Resource Staff/Blind
John Miller Community Private Accessibility
Consultant
Su Musclow Principal
Liz Palmer Vice-Principal
Camille Parent PVNC Trustee
Nancy Sharpe Manager of Communications
Maria Shuwera Canadian Hearing Society/
SEAC
Deirdre Thomas Superintendent of Schools
Robert Welch Manager of Plant
Adam White Elementary Teacher
Debbie Willette Manager of Human Resources

**National Accessibility Week is the last week of
May/first week of June.**



WHAT'S NEXT?

- ❖ continue to educate staff, students and parents regarding disabilities
- ❖ advocate for students, staff and parents regarding accessibility
- ❖ support and sponsor school and community initiatives that support accessibility
- ❖ access funding to support accessible equipment, building and renovations

Additional Information available:

www.pvnccdsb.on.ca

www.mcass.gov.on.ca/accessibility

For more Information contact your School Principal, Co-ordinator of Special Education or the Communications Office at the Catholic Education Centre.

PETERBOROUGH VICTORIA NORTHUMBERLAND AND CLARINGTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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