

Purpose and Scope

Burlington Public Library is committed to providing all members of the community, including those with disabilities, with equitable access to all programs, resources, and services.

Statement of Policy

The library will comply with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07 and Integrated Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 101-11, to identify the way services will be provided in an accessible manner for people with disabilities.

The library will make every reasonable effort to ensure that services, programs, resources, and premises are accessible.

Accessibility Plans

Burlington Public Library will assign a Staff Accessibility Coordinator to develop, monitor, and report on the library's accessibility plan and its implementation to ensure compliance with AODA standards. An Accessibility Advisory Committee of informed staff members will update colleagues of best practices and changes to legislation affecting the library.

The library will make available to associated parties an information piece on the provision of customer service for people with disabilities and the library's accessibility policy and practices.

Communication

We will make every reasonable effort to communicate with people with disabilities in a manner that is appropriate to the person with a disability.

Policy documents will be available on the Library's website. Policy documents will be provided, consistent with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, the Ontario Regulation 429/07 and Ontario Regulation 191-11.

Assistive Devices

We are committed to serving the people with disabilities who use assistive devices to obtain, use or benefit from Library services.

Use of Service Animals

We are committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal.

If it is not readily apparent that the animal is a service animal, Library employees may ask if an animal is a service animal and whether documentation of the animal's status is available. If documentation is not immediately available, the person and the animal, normally, will be allowed access to the library for the current visit and asked to bring documentation for future visits.

Service animals are generally dogs but do include other animals. It is the responsibility of the person with a disability to ensure that his or her service animal is kept under control at all times.

Support Persons

Support persons, who assist a person with a disability are welcome in the Library to help with communication, mobility, medical need or other reason to facilitate use of the Library.

A support person, when assisting a person with a disability to use Library services, will be permitted to attend programs at no charge where an admission fee is applicable. Persons with disabilities may provide their library card or its duplicate fob to a support person for use by the support person on their behalf.

The Library may require a person with a disability to be accompanied by a support person when on the premises. Before making a decision to require a support person, the Library will consult with the person with a disability to understand their needs, consider health or safety reasons based on available evidence and determine if there is any other reasonable way to protect the health or safety of the person or others on the premises.

Design of Public Spaces

Burlington Public Library will incorporate accessibility features when designing, procuring, or acquiring equipment and spaces. The Library will consult with individuals and organizations representing persons with disabilities when designing public spaces.

Notice of Temporary Service Disruption

Burlington Public Library will make reasonable effort to provide customers with notice in the event of planned or unplanned disruption of services used by people with disabilities.

Emergency Information

Burlington Public Library will provide publicly available emergency information in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports, upon request, as soon as practicable.

Training

Burlington Public Library will provide training as required by the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service to employees, volunteers and others who provide library service or are involved in the development and approval of customer service policies, practices, and procedures. Training content and format will be designed according to the level of interaction with customers. Training will be provided as part of orientation training for new employees and on a continuing basis as required.

Feedback Process

Comments on the provision of Library services are welcome and appreciated. Feedback about the delivery of services to persons with disabilities may be given by telephone, in person, in writing, in electronic format or through other methods.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: References
- Appendix 2: Definitions

Appendix 1: References

- [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11](#)
- [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 - O. Reg. 429/07](#)
- [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 - O. Reg. 191/11](#)
- [Toronto Public Library Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities Policy](#)
- [Kitchener Public Library Accessibility Policy](#)
- [Hamilton Public Library Accessibility for Individuals with a Disability Policy](#)

Appendix 2: 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.

“Assistive Devices”

An assistive device is a tool, technology or other mechanism that enables a person with a disability to do everyday tasks and activities such as moving, communicating or lifting (examples include, walkers, magnifiers for reading, etc.).

“Barrier”

A barrier is any policy, practice or procedure, or part of the built environment, that prevents someone with a disability from participating fully in library programs or services **because of his or her disability.**

“Disability”

As defined in the AODA, disability means:

- a) Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, including diabetes, mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,
- b) A condition of mental impairment or developmental disability,
- c) Learning disability, or a dysfunction in one of more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- d) Mental disorder, or
- e) An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*; (“handicap”).

“Reasonable Efforts”

The Customer Service Standard requires organizations to make reasonable efforts to meet the needs of people with disabilities. The Library defines reasonable efforts as providing the best possible service within the context of: available resources, balancing the needs of people with disabilities with others who may encounter barriers to access and with the community at large, the health and safety of Library staff and volunteers, the security of Library property and existing laws and contracts.

Reference:

Access

Effective Date: Dec. 2009

Projected Review Date:

Motion #/Date: #9-85, Dec. 17, 2009

Amended Dates: #18-39 April 19, 2018

Associated Procedures: Human Rights Policy