

2017-2019 Accessibility Plan for Kitchener Public Library

INTRODUCTION

This plan meets the needs of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA, 2001), and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA, 2005).

Plan shows the steps being taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in our library.

BACKGROUND

Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2001

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) was passed into law by the Ontario Legislature on December 4, 2001. The purpose of the Act is “to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province”. The ODA applies to all municipalities, hospitals, district school boards, colleges, universities, public transportation organizations, the Ontario Government, ministries and agencies.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005 (AODA)

The AODA received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature in June 2005. The AODA focuses on improving accessibility in buildings and spaces, employment, customer service, communications and transportation. The AODA intends to:

- make an accessible Ontario on or before January 1, 2025;
- create and make mandatory and enforceable accessibility standards to be achieved within five years or less

Description of Kitchener Public Library

Kitchener Public Library is a public sector organization, providing excellent public library service. The library’s Mission is that “we welcome our community to engaging spaces where people connect, ideas flourish, and lives are transformed”.



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The library has five locations: four community libraries and Central Library. The library serves a diverse community and is committed to providing equitable access to all our services and collections.

Kitchener Public Library Accessibility Plan Committee Members

The Kitchener Public Library Accessibility Plan Committee members are Julie Curry, Manager, Circulation Services; Gary Bauman, Web Services Librarian; Sabina Franzen, Director, Business Services and Human Resources; Kevin Webb, Manager, Facilities; and Sarah Jewett, Manager, Human Resources.

Accomplishments 2017

Accessibility Initiative	Action	Responsibility (committee, staff, or department)	Date
Physical			
Automatic Door Opener	Investigate requirements and cost for automatic door opener to courtyard	Kevin Webb	Jun 2017 - Completed and installed
Pioneer Park Book Drop	Install accessible book drop at Pioneer Park subject to community centre construction impact	Kevin Webb	May 2017 - Completed
Baskets	Purchased baskets with handles for Central	Julie Curry	May 2017 - Completed
Magnifier	Purchase electronic magnifier for in library use at Central	Julie Curry	Jan 2017 - Completed
Visual Aid on steps	Investigate visual aid stripping for Central Library front steps	Kevin Webb	Nov 2017 - Completed, decision to defer
Accessibility Space	Reorganize accessibility space to enhance use of equipment	Julie Curry	Sep 2017 - Completed
Technology			
Computer accessibility	Add Browsealoud extension app to all public computers	IT Department	Sep 2017 - Completed

Accessibility Initiative	Action	Responsibility (committee, staff, or department)	Date
Mouse Toggle	Add Mouse Toggle app on all public computers	IT Department	Mar 2017 - Completed
Outreach	Provide information on CELA and library services to community	Julie Curry, IS staff	Ongoing -several CELA referrals & in library inquiries
Policy			
Floating Collections	Investigate other collections for inclusion in service	Julie Curry	Ongoing - added high demand DVD & Express items (Apr 2017)
Accessible Collections	Purchase additional copies of bestsellers for Large Print and Visiting Library collections	Collection Management Team	Dec 2017 - Completed
Accessible Collections	Allow borrowing of DVDs with a 6 week loan period for Visiting Library customers	Julie Curry	Mar 2017 - Completed
Outreach	Establish partnership to provide barrier free access to library services at Grand River Cancer Centre	Management	Sep 2017 - Completed
Attitudinal			
Sensitivity Training	Investigate Alzheimer Society Dementia-Friendly Communities Program	Julie Curry, Sarah Jewett	Dec 2017 - complete, transfer to Information Services Department for implementation
Accessibility Training	Provide information in staff and volunteer newsletters and by email	Sarah Jewett, Lisa Stacey, Sherry Erb, Julie Curry	Ongoing

Initiatives

Accessibility Initiative	Action	Responsibility (committee, staff, or department)	Date
Physical			
Self Checkout unit replacements	Replace self checkout units and upgraded software	IT Department	2018
Ramp handle at Central	Investigate option to add handle to ramp	Kevin Webb, Sabina Franzen	2018
Coin op Replacement	Ensure accessibility is considered for coin op replacement units	IT Department	2018
Forest Heights Desk Replacement	Ensure accessibility is considered during design of new service desk	Sabina Franzen	2018
Self Checkout display	Install software to allow font adjustments on display	IT Department	2018
Grand River Stanley Park book drop	Investigate replacement of book drop	Sabina Franzen	2018
Technology			
Website accessibility	Add accessible features in compliance with WCAG 2.0, Level AA standards such as video captions, audio transcripts, more complete text content and labels for fields in web forms	Gary Bauman	Ongoing
Children's Portal	Update portal and include accessible features in compliance with applicable standards	Gary Bauman	2018
Studio Central	Ensure accessibility is considered during development of Studio Central	Penny-Lynn Fielding, Bob Egan	2017-2019
Integrated Library System replacement	Ensure accessibility is considered for new system	Management	2018

Accessibility Initiative	Action	Responsibility (committee, staff, or department)	Date
Outreach	Provide information on CELA and library services to community upon request	Julie Curry, IS staff	Dec 2018
Policy			
Accessible Collections	Purchase additional copies of bestsellers for Large Print collection	Collection Management Team	Dec 2018
Parking payment options	Allow debit payment through library for parking garage	Julie Curry	2018
Accessible Collections	Purchase additional copies of bestsellers for Visiting Library collection	Collection Management Team	Dec 2018
Accessible Collections	Establish new collection of picture books for customers with dementia	Collection Management Team	Dec 2018
Attitudinal			
Sensitivity Training	Investigate providing staff education and training about dementia	Sarah Jewett, Information Services Staff	Dec 2018
Accessibility Training	Provide information in staff and volunteer newsletters and by email	Sarah Jewett, Lisa Stacey, Sherry Erb, Julie Curry	Ongoing

Communication Plan

- Communicate Plan to Management Team - December 2017
- Communicate Plan to staff and volunteers - December 2017
- Communicate Plan to the public on KPL website - December 2017
- Provide paper copies of the Plan upon request - Ongoing

Conclusion

This Plan will be reviewed and updated annually. Kitchener Public Library is committed to providing equitable access and removing barriers to all services and facilities.