



NIAGARA CATHOLIC ACCESSIBILITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2023

Department	DATE: As of May 2023
Customer Service (ALL DEPARTMENTS)	<i>Outlines requirements for removing barriers for people with disabilities so they can access goods, services, and/or facilities. For example, a person who requires the use of a service animal must be permitted to enter the premises. They must also be allowed to keep the service animal with them, unless excluded by law.</i>
Recent Projects/Accomplishments	Library Services - Added more e-books to digital collection. Will be dispersing CRC housed resources for more targeted use onsite (I e: Playaways, Titles in Braille, Large Print Fiction) B1 Funding; Supporting Students with Disabilities, Spring 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening Event for parents, educators and community partners with 2 keynote speakers (Unstoppable Tracy and Dr. McNamara; The Recess Project) • Full day conference for 250 students - 5 students from every elementary school. Keynote speaker; Unstoppable Tracy followed by interactive workshops providing hands on experiences related to accessibility and disability • Professional Activity days for support staff and central level staff with speakers and workshops celebrating diversity, inclusion and accessibility • Motivational in person session for every secondary school with Unstoppable Tracy (varied audiences) • Continued work with school teams to build on awareness, information and opportunities in every school and community
Future/Intended Projects/Accomplishments	Library Services - Re-evaluation of Library collections and further additions for differently abled staff and students. Application for 2023-2024 Supporting Students with Disabilities Funding School commitment to continue efforts to raise awareness, reduce/remove barriers and promote inclusion using tools from Accessibility Kits shared with each elementary school
Information and Communication (CORPORATE SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES)	<i>Lists rules for organizations to create, provide, and receive information and communications that are accessible for people with disabilities. For example; organizations must provide information and communication in an accessible format to people with disabilities upon request in a timely manner.</i>
Recent Projects/Accomplishments	New large format branding. Review of Style Guide.
Future/Intended Projects/Accomplishments	New website with enhanced Accessibility functions – Sept/Oct 2023.
Transportation	<i>The goal is to make it easier for everyone to travel in Ontario.</i>



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(NSTS)	
Recent Projects/Accomplishments	<p>The individual considerations of each student are reviewed annually to determine what services and supports are required to meet their needs as they relate to transportation services. Although full integration is our ultimate goal, vehicles of a variety of sizes and other assistive/safety devices are made available to meet the integrated accessibility needs of each student of the Board.</p>
Future/Intended Projects/Accomplishments	<p>The Board is committed to continuing to ensure that accessible transportation services are provided to students with disabilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing to develop individual student transportation plans. ● Making available to the public current information on accessibility equipment and features on school transportation vehicles, routes and services. ● Deploying lifting devices and ramps upon request, ensuring adequate time is provided to safely board, assisting with safe and careful storage of assistive devices, and allowing persons with a disability to travel with medical aid. ● Continuing to work with all stakeholders on finding solutions as we support increasingly complex transportation needs.
Employment (HUMAN RESOURCES)	<p><i>Requires that employers must make their workplace and employment practices accessible to potential or current employees with disabilities. For example, employers that make an offer of employment to a successful job applicant must inform the applicant of their organization's policies for accommodating employees with disabilities.</i></p>
Recent Projects/Accomplishments	
Future/Intended Projects/Accomplishments	
Design of Public Spaces (FACILITIES/LIBRARY SERVICES)	<p><i>Outlines the need for newly constructed or redeveloped public spaces to be accessible for people with disabilities. For example, organizations must provide accessible parking for people with disabilities when building new or redeveloping existing parking spaces.</i></p>
Recent Projects/Accomplishments	<p>Library - Current planned renovations for summer 2023 will include functional and adjustable furniture where at all possible and will ensure free movement around spaces.</p>



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	<p>Accessibility projects completed in the 2021/22 school year:</p> <p>121 – Notre Dame Elem. – Construct student and staff accessible washrooms</p> <p>122 – Sacred Heart – Retrofit student accessible washroom</p> <p>125 – St Gabriel Lalemant – Retrofit washrooms and entrances to make Kindergarten rooms accessible</p> <p>144 – Holy Name – Gymnasium retrofit to allow barrier free access to stage</p> <p>175 – St Alfred – Construct student accessible washroom</p> <p>210 – Lakeshore HS – Special Education area upgrades</p> <p>250 – Notre Dame HS – Construct student accessible washroom and upgrade accessibility of common spaces throughout the school with card access</p>
<p>Future/Intended Projects/Accomplishments</p>	<p>Library - Evaluating all library spaces for accessibility challenges for both staff and students.</p> <p>New planned projects for the next two years:</p> <p>230 – Saint Paul HS – Special Education area upgrades</p> <p>250 – Notre Dame HS – Auditorium, stage and back stage area accessibility upgrades</p> <p>260 – Denis Morris HS – Gymnasium, weight room, change room accessibility upgrades</p> <p>270 – Holy Cross HS – Special Education area upgrades</p> <p>280 – Saint Francis HS – Special Education area upgrades</p>
<p>Procurement</p>	
<p>Future/Intended Projects/Accomplishments</p>	<p>The Niagara Catholic Purchasing Services Department will facilitate purchase requests which incorporate accessibility design criteria and features. We will also continue to incorporate language in all of our tender and RFSQ documents that requires suppliers to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.</p>