



Towards an Accessible Ontario

Ontario Library Association

January 31, 2013

Accessibility Directorate of Ontario
Ministry of Community and Social Services





Why Accessibility?

The Numbers

A light blue silhouette map of the province of Ontario is positioned on the left side of the slide. It is partially overlaid by the '15.5%' text and the 'people with disabilities' text.

15.5%

**people with
disabilities**

- About **1.85 million people** in Ontario have disabilities
- Seniors aged 65+ could more than double to **4.1 million by 2036**
- By 2017, more seniors than children aged 14 and under



Why Accessibility?

No Talent Wasted

- Untapped talent pool
- High job performance and retention
- Unemployment rate five times as high
- Ontario may be increasingly dependent on a workforce:
 - currently with disabilities
 - working beyond retirement age





Why Accessibility?

An Investment in Future Prosperity

- More educated workforce
- Increased workforce participation
- Increased revenue over the next five years:
 - Tourism:
 - \$700 million to \$1.6 billion
 - 3% – 7% increase in visits
 - Retail:
 - \$3.8 to \$9.6 billion





The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Accessibility Standards

Customer Service

Information and Communications

Employment

Transportation

Built Environment

- Collaborative standards development committees:
 - People with disabilities
 - Representatives of obligated sectors
 - Ontario government ministries
- Broad public consultation





AODA Compliance Wizard



- Answer a few questions about your organization, and the Wizard will give you a personalized summary of what you have to do
- Free and user-friendly
- The Wizard can be found at www.ontario.ca/AccessON



Getting to Compliance

A Progressive Approach

Compliance Assistance

(supported by public education and awareness) 360,000 organizations will be required to comply with standards

Self-Certification Accessibility Reporting

60,000 obligated organizations required to report

Reports Audited; Risk Assessment Used to Determine Follow-up

Non-compliant reports, non-filers, patterns of complaints

Inspections & Enforcement

Orders and penalties — Based on risk and severity of violation



Accessibility Reporting

Who needs to report?

- Businesses and organizations covered by an accessibility standard
- Exemptions:
 - **Customer Service:** organizations with **fewer than 20** employees
 - **IASR:** organizations with **fewer than 50** employees
- File reports on-line (simple checklist format)
- Make accessibility reports available to the public



Accessible Content E-Platform (ACE) Pilot

- Create barrier-free access to textual resources for students and faculty with reading and print disabilities
- Digitize 1,000 resources during pilot
- Develop workshops, webinars, and toolkit for librarians and library administrators about the AODA



Getting to 2025 - Accessible Libraries

- Benefits to public library patrons and employees:
 - Greater access to a variety of library materials
 - Greater knowledge about the availability of accessible materials within their library system
 - Information provided about services and events hosted by the library available in an accessible manner
 - Increased accessibility features in self-serve checkout kiosks





Links and Resources



ontario.ca/AccessON



AODA Contact Centre (ServiceOntario)

Toll-Free: 1-866-515-2025

TTY: 416-325-3408 / 1-800-268-7095

Fax: 416-325-3407



ServiceOntario Publications

(to order resources online):

www.publications.serviceontario.ca



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