Inclusive Communities: Access to Ontario's Libraries

Presented by:

The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

AERO (Alternative Educational Resources Ontario)

February 1, 2018

OLA Super Conference

Presentation Overview

1. Introduction

2. AODA and What You Need to Know

3. Resources Highlight: Alternative Educational Resources Ontario (AERO)
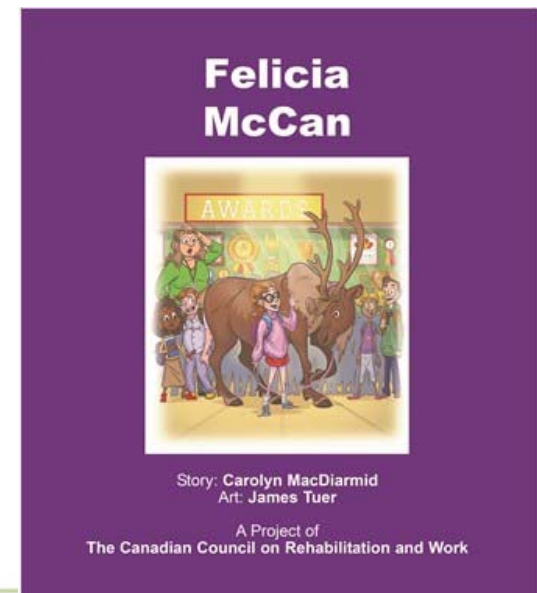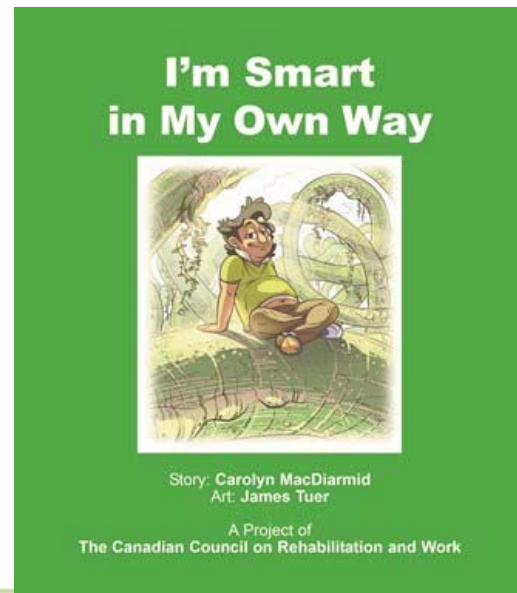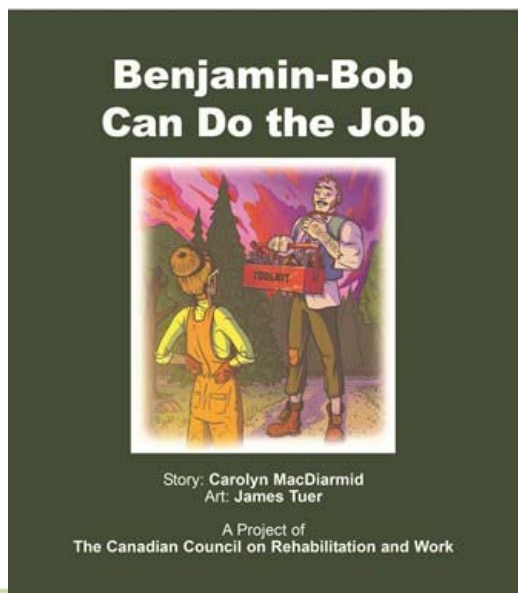
Ontario

Questions? Resources?
We're here to help!

Booth # 321

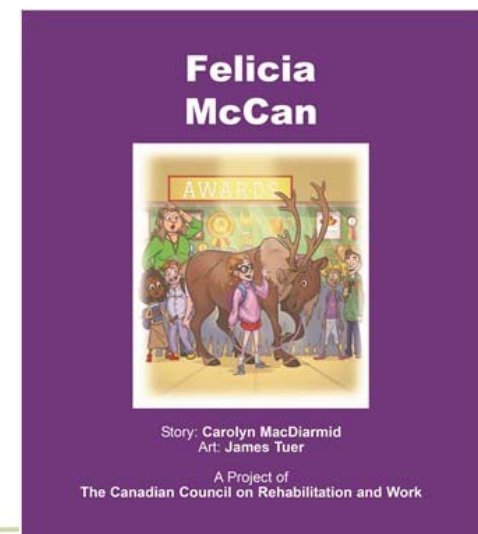Ontario

Children's Book Series

- The Ontario 150 Secretariat and Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO) partnership with The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW)

Benjamin-Bob Can Do the Job
Story: Carolyn MacDiarmid
Art: James Tuer
A Project of
The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

I'm Smart in My Own Way
Story: Carolyn MacDiarmid
Art: James Tuer
A Project of
The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

Felicia McCan
Story: Carolyn MacDiarmid
Art: James Tuer
A Project of
The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

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Children's Book Series Continued

Objective:

- To provide parents, educators, librarians, and other stakeholders across Ontario with an educational book series that promotes inclusion and accessibility

Benjamin-Bob Can Do the Job

Story: Carolyn MacDiarmid
Art: James Tuer

A Project of
The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

I'm Smart in My Own Way

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A Project of
The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work

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Who is covered by the AODA?

- Organizations in Ontario

- One or more employees

- Provide goods, services or facilities:

  - directly to the public, or

  - to other businesses or organizations

Government

Broader Public Sector

Business

**Non-profit organizations**

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Special Rules for School Libraries

- Provide, procure or acquire an accessible or conversion ready format of print, digital or multimedia resources/materials upon request

- 2015 – print based materials and resources

- 2020 – of digital or multimedia resources and materials.
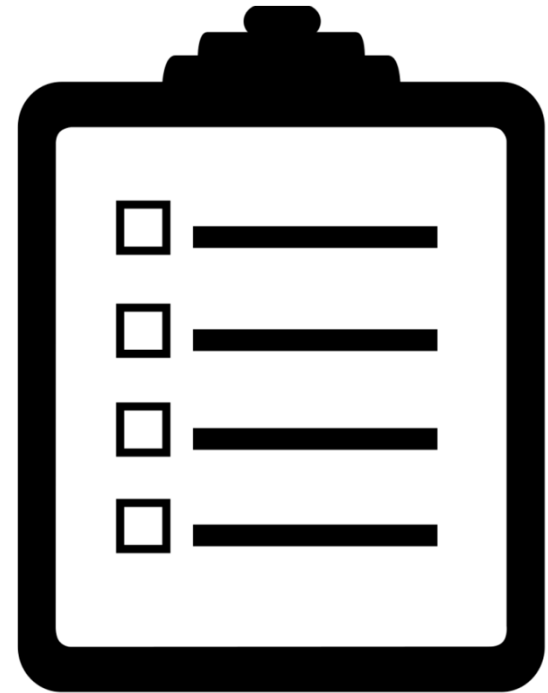
Special Rules for Public Libraries

- Provide accessible library resources when asked
- Let the public know that printed learning materials can be made available in an accessible format upon request.

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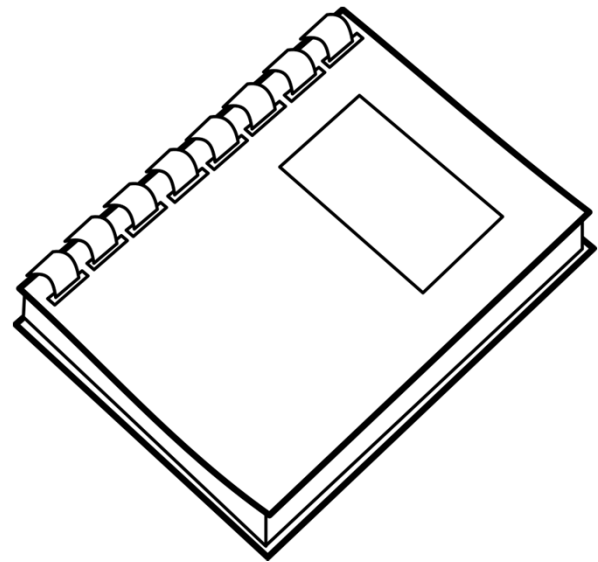
Accessibility Standards

Information and Communications

Design of Public Spaces

Employment

Transportation

How can I help you?

Customer Service

Ontario

Path to Accessibility 2025 – where are we?

Recent requirements:

- 2016-2018 saw requirements to make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible under the Design of Public Spaces Standard,
- By December 31, 2017, all organizations in Ontario with 20 or more employees were required to file an Accessibility Compliance Report

Upcoming dates:

- The first review of the design of public spaces standards is set to begin in 2018
- By December 31, 2019 or 2020, you need to file another Accessibility Compliance Report
- By January 1, 2021, you need to make all websites and web content accessible

Accessibility Standards: How they affect libraries

 Information and Communications

 Design of Public Spaces

 Employment

 Transportation

 How can I help you? Customer Service

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Accessible Information and Communications Standard

- This standard focuses on making information accessible to everyone

- For example, making your customer service feedback processes accessible, when asked

- Let the public know that you will provide accessible formats and communication supports

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Accessible Information and Communications Standard Cont.

- Provide Emergency and Public Safety Information in Accessible Formats when requested

- You don't have to have accessible formats on hand and you don't have to create new emergency or public safety information.

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Tools to Help You
Accessible Information and Communications Standard

- [Accessible Digital Office Document (ADOD) Project](#)

Tools to Help You
Accessible Information and Communications Standard

- By January 1, 2021, municipalities need to make all websites and web content accessible according to WCAG 2.0 standards

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines - GAATES

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Design of Public Spaces Standard

- Design of Public Spaces is about making public spaces more accessible.

- This standard provides more opportunities for people with disabilities to get to work, shop, travel and play independently.

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Tools to Help You
Accessible Design of Public Spaces

- For libraries, this most commonly impacts new:
  - parking lots
  - service counters, fixed waiting lines and waiting areas with fixed seating
  - Organizations are required to consult with the public when redesigning new public spaces
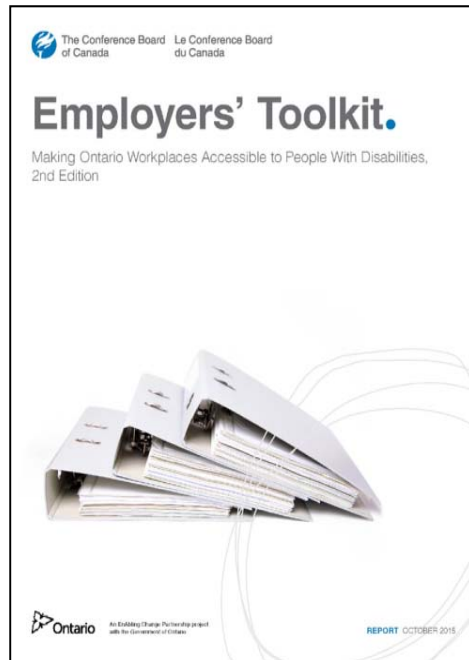

GAATES Guide

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Accessible Employment Standard

- The Accessible Employment Standard aims to make workplaces inclusive and aims to ensure that employment practices are accessible throughout the employment life cycle

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Tools to Help You
Accessible Employment Standard

Conference Board of
Canada: Employers' Toolkit

Handbook for
Accessible Employment

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Access Talent

Access Talent: Ontario's Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities

start early
engage
integate
trail blaze

Vision:

A province where people with disabilities are thriving in rewarding jobs and careers, and – **together with their employers** – are contributing to the province's prosperity and economic growth.

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Minister's Call to Action

- Employers with **20 or more employees** to hire at least one more person with a disability

- Connecting **56,000 people** to jobs.

- Increasing employment for people with disabilities looking for work by **30 percent**

Where do I go if I want to hire a person with a disability?

- [Discover Ability Network](https://discoverability.network)

- Key deliverable of Ontario's Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities.

- Free online portal to link Ontario businesses directly to people with disabilities.

- Focused on connecting more people with disabilities to rewarding jobs and more employers to new talent that can help grow their businesses.

- For more information visit https://discoverability.network

Upcoming Webinars

Accessible Design of Public Spaces

- Wednesday February 21 - 2:00PM

Hiring People with Disabilities: Replacing Myths with Reality

- Wednesday February 28 - 2:00PM

Sign up at booth 321

or

Go to ontario.ca/accessibility and scroll to "Register for free sessions"

Presentation Format

- Survey Quotes
- AERO Statistics
- History
- Vision
- Post Secondary Agreement with Publishers and Legacy
- Benefits of AERO

AERO Survey Quotes 2017

- **Baby you the best!!! Thanks for all your help with this. You should have seen the young man's face on Tuesday when he received the first part...it was like the heavens opened up and the sun shined through.**
- **Kudos to all of you. You are doing the work of angels.**
- **I just want to commend you for the wonderful services you provide. It is so wonderful for students who have difficulty reading to be able to have the pdf materials read to them. It is also very convenient for me as a classroom teacher to be able to quickly find and download.**

AERO Survey Quotes Continued

It's difficult to overemphasize the importance of what AERO is doing for post-secondary students today.

They are not OK with any sort of learning inequity, and continue to push for the basic rights of students to access alternate formats.

Having done my post-secondary studies before AERO ramped-up and throughout many of its innovations, the positive effects of their work are very obvious to me.

Dr. Daniel Zingaro

AERO Statistics 2016 2017

- AERO clients used AERO for 31,000 title requests in 2016. El/Sec and Post Sec.
- 24155 titles downloaded(or "textbook files processed") for 2016
- 2914 physical requests checked out
- 7100 students serviced in 2016
- Total Colleges & Universities use 1,044 Students 3,637 requests

Corporate Structure

- AERO is a service provided through The Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch.
- The Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch (PDSB) is a branch of the Student Support and Field Services Division of the Ministry of Education and is responsible for the direct operation of five (5) provincial schools and four (4) demonstration schools:
- Three English/American Sign Language (ASL) provincial schools for the Deaf
- Three English-language demonstration schools for students who have severe learning disabilities
- One English-language provincial school for the blind, visually impaired and deafblind
- One French/Langue des signes québécoise (LSQ) provincial school for the Deaf, blind and
- One French-language demonstration school (for students who have severe learning disabilities)

AERO History

- AERO, is Alternative Educational Resources for Ontario.

- AERO is a bilingual secure web-based online service that provides alternative-format textbooks for students with perceptual disabilities in publicly funded education institutions in Ontario.

- AERO has provided transcription service to perceptually impaired students in Ontario since 1982.

- AERO has a service level agreement with Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development and has had a partnership with MAESD since 1982.)

AERO Vision

- AERO;
- Is the primary centre for producing alternate format materials for the Ontario education system and a recognized pan-Canadian centre of excellence.
- Provides a timely and equitable service in English and French to students who require alternate format materials.
- Participates in pan-Canadian partnerships to provide alternate format materials.
- Remains at the forefront of alternate technology, investigating and pursuing breakthrough technologies that meet pressing needs.

Who AERO serves

- AERO's mandate is to provide alternate format text to students with perceptual disabilities who attend publicly funded educational institutions in Ontario. The service is available to students from kindergarten to Post Doctorate.

What material Does AERO provide?

- AERO provides Braille, accessible PDF, Word, Kurzweil, Daisy Digital Audio and large print mediums. These mediums are available in both French and English.

- The AERO catalogue is available for anyone to browse but only advisors can request material.

The AERO Publisher Post-Secondary Agreement and Legacy

- In 2007 AERO and MAESD (formally Training, Colleges and Universities) entered into a repository agreement where AERO site development enabled Post Sec advisors to request material direct from Post Sec publishers through AERO and enable AERO to transcribe and record the process.

- In 2009 an AERO pilot with 8 institutions and publishers was launched. Requests from institutions went directly to publishers who would then provide (upload) a digital copy of the file to AERO or the institution for transcription.

- The benefit of this process was that institutions were no longer required to send hard copies to AERO or requests to publishers.

- The proactive service model improvement reduced delivery time lines by 90%.

- This was to first model of this kind in North America!

Results of AERO MAESD Publisher Agreement

- Efficiencies have been created in schools across the province, by saving hundreds of thousands of educator hours.

- The playing field for students in across the province has been levelled by providing accessible resources to in a timely, effective manner.

- A network of Ontario educators has been created, and a model of distribution has been provided

- AERO is evidence of the Ministries commitment to: Develop and support innovative opportunities for individuals with a perceptual disability.

AERO, MAESD, Publisher Agreement Legacy Continued

- Pearson and McGraw Hill Publishers extended this service to the Elementary and Secondary Divisions in 2016.

- Access Text Network is now open to Canadian post-secondary educational institutions. Canadian institutions now have access to American works produced by publishers that are a part of the Access Text Network. This added value service was a direct result of AERO requesting permission on behalf of Ontario institutions

- In 2016 2017 there were 593 requests to the Access Text Network from Ontario institutions.

- Pearson consulted with AERO regarding the development of Alternate Text for their material in 2017

Forest of Reading AERO Partnership

- The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators.

- AERO and the Ontario Library Association worked together to ensure the Forest of Reading program provided equitable access to students with a perceptual disability.

- Providing AERO an accessible format in PDF or EPub is a pre-condition for any publisher wanting to participate in the program.

- Twenty one publishers participating in the Forest of Reading Program have provided files to AERO.

- Last year there were 408 Forest of Reading requests through AERO from advisors

Questions? Resources?
We're here to help!

ontario.ca\accessibility

Facebook.com/AccessON

Toll-Free: 1-866-515-2025
TTY: 416-325-3408
     1-800-268-7095

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