



Accessibility Annual Report

2022-2023

Message from Keld Scott

Superintendent of Business & Accessibility Planning Committee Chair

On behalf of the NCDSB Accessibility Committee, please accept the 2022-2023 Accessibility Annual Report.

As a committee, we have worked hard over the course of this past year to achieve positive outcomes and ensure our full compliance with all requirements.

The Multi- Year Accessibility Plan's Aim states:

This Multi-year Accessibility Plan describes the measures that the Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) has taken and the measures that the Board will take during the period of the Multi-year Accessibility Plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Board, including staff, day students, summer students, volunteers, parents of students and other members of the community.

We are very proud of our collective achievements and remain committed to continuous improvements to ensure that all members of our communities have proper access to our facilities, programs, and services.

Keld Scott

Superintendent of Business & Accessibility Planning Committee Chair

The following annual report was prepared by the NCDSB Accessibility Planning Committee in accordance with the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

INTRODUCTION

The NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan can be found on our website at: [NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2021-25](#).

As outlined in the plan and as a component of the AODA compliance requirements, an annual status report on the progress of the measures taken to implement the plan is to be prepared at the June committee meeting and to be presented to the Board of Trustees no later than at its September Meeting.

The 2022-2023 school year provided the Accessibility Committee with an opportunity to reach out to our schools, identify accessibility barriers and create plans to ensure we begin a dialogue about accessibility issues within our school board.

ACCESSIBILITY ACTION AND PLANS TAKEN

As mandated by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, all non-profit organizations with 20 or more employees must complete an accessibility compliance report before December 31, 2023. This compliant report is a requirement every three years. The *NCDSB 2023 Accessibility Compliance Report* was successfully submitted and notification was received from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility stating “Your report indicates that your organization is in compliance with Ontario’s accessibility law. Your confirmation number is ACR-85457”.

The following actions/plans serve to highlight the 2022-2023 NCDSB Accessibility measures taken:

- i) The Accessibility Committee successfully completed the *AODA Accessibility Compliance Report*. We received approval from the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility in March 2023.
- ii) The Accessibility Committee revised, updated and improved the NCDSB Accessibility webpage <https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/accessibility.php>.
- iii) The Accessibility Committee conducted the *Accessibility Features by School Report* and conducted the *Accessibility Barriers by School* survey. This report and survey allowed each school community to list the accessible features their school currently has in place and the survey allowed for the school to provide their accessibility issues and shortcomings. The number one issue across the NCDSB related to automatic entrance and exit door features. The number two accessible issue identified was the limited accessible washrooms within our schools. The purpose of this survey is to identify accessible areas within our school and plans to rectifying these areas of opportunity and budget accordingly.
- iv) The Accessibility Committee, based on the *Multi-Year Accessibility Plan*, undertook to ensure all school partners and communities were notified about the committee’s

existence and the new Accessibility focus within NCDSB. The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic School Councils and all Municipalities that have an NCDSB school in were notified by letter advising of our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. In addition, we provided our contact information should they have any questions or feedback they would like to provide our committee regarding accessibility.

- v) The Accessibility Committee signed up with *Accessibility News, Your Online Magazine Devoted to Disability Accessibility*, a daily newsletter highlighting accessibility issues taking place, both provincially and nationally.
- vi) The Accessibility Committee is investigating how we can provide updated Customer Service Training to all NCDSB employees regarding the AODA focus. Is it best to include during the original school year orientation training or as a separate webinar? The current 41-minute webinar will be reviewed with the Education Department to determine the best path forward.
- vii) The Accessibility Committee requested NCDSB Policy E-14 *School Grounds: Enhancements and Equipment* be updated to reflect the new direction having all new playground structure plans reviewed by the Accessibility Committee to ensure accessible features are included and all AODA requirements are adhered to.
- viii) The Accessibility Committee is currently planning on a new information education campaign starting in September 2023 to include awareness posters, emails, and social media posts. A new quarterly NCDSB *Accessibility Matters* newsletter is also being developed to ensure further awareness regarding accessibility issues are shared with all NCDSB employees.
- ix) The Accessibility Committee has created and completed the *NCDSB Accessibility Annual Report (2022-2023)*.

CONCLUSION

The focus of the 2022-2023 school year has been implementing the structure of annual accessibility reviews within our school board. The Accessibility Committee has focused on plans for enhanced educational opportunities and enhanced communications to all NCDSB employees regarding accessibility standards and issues for the upcoming school year.

The NCDSB Accessibility Committee looks forward to continued work with you to ensure that all accessibility barriers are eliminated for all NCDSB students and employees.

Please accept the *Northeastern Catholic District School Board Accessibility Annual Report 2022-2023* as presented.