Northeastern Catholic District School Board

Accessibility Annual Report

2021-2022

Prepared by the NCDSB Accessibility Planning Committee in accordance with the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Message from Keld Scott, Superintendent of Business and Accessibility Planning Committee Chair,

"We are pleased to be able to present the Accessibility Annual Report for 2021-2022 to the NCDSB Trustees. We have made great strides over the past year in re-establishing the NCDSB Accessibility aims, objectives and direction that will serve as our foundation moving forward. It is our goal to eliminate all accessibility barriers and enhance all NCDSB employees' knowledge regarding attitudinal, organizational or systemic, architectural or physical, information or communications, and technology identified barriers to accessibility for persons with disabilities."

Introduction:

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board's Multi-year Accessibility Plan describes the measures that the Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) has taken and the measures (aims) 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.

The NCDSB Multi-year Accessibility Plan can be found on our website at https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/Accessibility%20Multi-Year%20Plan%20Master%202022.pdf .

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 2021-2022 school year was a very busy year for the newly reconstituted NCDSB Accessibility Planning Committee. A revised and updated Multi-year Accessibility Plan (2021-2025) was drafted and approved by the Accessibility Planning Committee.

Furthermore, NCDSB completed the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility 2021 Accessibility Compliance Report, submitted it and received notification from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility that "Your report indicates that your organization is in compliance with Ontario's accessibility law."

The following actions/items serve to highlight the 2021-2022 NCDSB Accessibility measures taken:

- Successfully completed AODA Accessibility Compliance Report. Received approval from the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility on May 10, 2022.

- Creation of new NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2021-2025)
  - Objectives of the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan include:
    To ensure compliance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, Ontario Regulation 429/07 (Customer Service Accessibility Standard) and Ontario Regulation 191/11 (Integrated Accessibility Standards) this plan:
    1. Describes the process by which the Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) will identify, remove and prevent barriers;
    2. Reviews efforts to remove and prevent barriers to date;
    3. Describes the measures the Board will take in the Multi-year Accessibility Plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
    4. Describes how the Board will make this accessibility plan available to the public;
    5. Makes a commitment to review and update the Multi-year Accessibility Plan at least once every 5 years as a minimum;
    6. Makes a commitment to provide an annual status report no later than at the September Board meeting on the Board's implementation of the Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

- Revised, updated and improved Accessibility webpage
  https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/accessibility.php

- The formation of the Accessibility Planning Committee
  - Current members of the Accessibility Planning Committee include:
    David Horton, Facility & Plant Manager Board Office
    Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher, Special Education Board Office
    Keld Scott, Superintendent of Business - Chair Board Office
    Shelley McGee, Parent/Public Representative Board Office
    Michele Mahaffy, Policy & Director's Office Representative Board Office Erica

Raymond, Principal Representative Board Office
Andrew Marks, Recording Secretary Board Office
Note: The coordinator of the Accessibility Planning Committee will be the Superintendent of Business.

- The review of the current NCDSB Accessibility Standards for Customer Service and Planning Policy (F-1)
  - https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/policies/F-1%20Accessibility%20Standards%20for%20Customer%20Service%20and%20Planning_1634239960.pdf

- The inaugural meeting of the Accessibility Planning Committee on April 8, 2022 at which the following agenda items were reviewed:
  - Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2021-2025
    - Aim, Objectives & Accessibility Planning Committee Membership
  - Accessibility Standards for Customer Service and Planning Policy F-1
  - Barrier-Identification Methodologies
  - Annual School Year Accountability Tables
  - Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review and Monitoring Process

- In May/June, consultation with all NCDSB schools and Board office took place identifying physical accessibility barriers located in their respective facilities. The barrier list was reviewed by the Accessibility Planning Committee and will be prioritized. This list serves as the foundation for future renovation or capital repairs to address identified barriers in reaching AODA compliance.

- Each school and the Board office undertook the completion of the *Accessibility Features by School at the NCDSB* document. This checklist identified which schools have Handicapped Parking Signs, Wheelchair/van accessible parking, school accessible access, automatic door opener, etc.

- The second meeting of the Accessibility Planning Committee on June 16, 2022 at which the following agenda items were reviewed:
  - Accessibility Features by School review
  - Accessibility Barriers by School
  - Review of Fall 2022 timelines/ actions
  - Preparation of Annual Report

- The creation and completion of the first NCDSB Accessibility Annual Report (2021-2022).

Conclusion:

Please accept the Northeastern Catholic District School Board Accessibility Annual Report 2021-2022 as presented. The NCDSB Accessibility Planning Committee looks forward to continue working with you to ensure that all accessibility barriers are eliminated for all NCDSB students and employees.