



## Purpose:

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (the “AODA”) is a Provincial Act with the purpose of developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for persons with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures, and premises. The AODA was enacted into law with the vision of creating a fully accessible Ontario by 2025.

Furthermore, under the AODA, Ontario Regulation 191/11 entitled “Integrated Accessibility Standards” (the “IASR”) came into force on July 1, 2011. Under the IASR, the Province has committed to developing and implementing standards in:

- Customer Service
- Information and Communication
- Employment
- Transportation
- Design of Public Spaces (Built Environment)

The purpose of this policy is to set out the requirements of the IASR, under the AODA, which reflects a number of accessibility standards that organizations across Ontario, including the Township, are required to comply with.

*NOTE: The requirements set out in this policy and the IASR are not a replacement or a substitution for the requirements established under the Human Rights Code. Nor do the standards or policy limit any obligations owed to persons with disabilities under any legislation.*

## Definitions:

### Accessible Formats

May include, but are not limited to, large print, recorded audio and electronic formats, braille and other formats usable by persons with disabilities.

### Assistive Device

A device used to assist persons with disabilities in carrying out activities or in accessing the services of persons or organizations covered by the Customer Service Standard.

### Township

The Corporation of the Township of Zorra, excluding boards and commissions.

### Communications

The interaction between two or more persons or entities, or any combination of them, where information is provided, sent, or received.

### Communication Supports

Communication supports are alternative ways of communicating with people with disabilities. Examples of a communication support may include, but are not limited to, alternative and augmentative communication supports, plain language, sign language through an interpreter

and other supports that facilitate effective communications.

### Disability

- a. Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,
- b. A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability,
- c. A learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- d. A mental disorder, or
- e. An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997.

### Guide Dog

A guide dog as defined in section 1 of the Blind Persons' Rights Act is a dog trained as a guide for a blind person and having qualifications prescribed by the regulations under the Blind Persons' Rights Act.

### Mobility Aid

A device used to facilitate the transport, in a seated posture, of a person with a disability

### Service Animal

Any animal used by a person with a disability for reasons relating to the disability where it is readily identified that the animal is used by the person for reasons relating to their disability as a result of visual indicators such as the vest or harness worn by the animal or where the person provides documentation from one of the following regulated health professionals confirming that the person requires the animal for reasons relating to their disability;

- A member of the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
- A member of the College of Chiropractors of Ontario
- A member of the College of Nurses of Ontario
- A member of the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario
- A member of the College of Optometrists of Ontario
- A member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
- A member of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
- A member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario
- A member of the College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario

### Support Person

A person who accompanies a person with a disability in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care, or medical needs or with access to goods, services or facilities. Examples of a support person may include, but are not limited to, sign language interpreters, intervenors, a guide for a person



with vision loss, and personal care assistants.

### Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

World Wide Web Consortium Recommendation, dated December 2008, entitled "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

## Procedure:

### 1.0 Application and Scope

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the IASR and addresses how the Township of Zorra achieves accessibility through meeting the regulation's requirements. It provides the overall strategic direction that will be followed to meet the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in the provision of goods, services and facilities.

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, Council Members, committee members, persons who participate in developing the organization's policies and all other persons who provide goods, services or facilities on behalf of the organization.

### 2.0 Statement of Commitment

The Corporation of the Township of Zorra is committed to providing quality goods, services, and facilities that are accessible to all persons we serve. We will continue to work with the community and allocate appropriate resources toward the elimination of accessibility barriers in customer service, information and communication, employment, transportation and the design of public spaces and are committed to meeting the requirements of applicable legislation, including the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

### 3.0 General Provisions

- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Annual Status Update Reports

In consultation with persons with disabilities, as well as input from agencies and associations supportive of persons with disabilities, the Township will establish, implement, maintain and update a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet requirements under the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation*.

Additionally, annual status update reports will be drafted to provide updates on the progress made each year toward achieving the strategy and targets identified in the multi-year plan. The multi-year plan and annual status reports will be posted on the Township's website and made available in an accessible format upon request.

- Procuring or Acquiring Goods, Services or Facilities

The Township shall incorporate accessibility criteria and features when procuring or acquiring



goods, services, or facilities, except where it is not practicable to do so. As such, the Township has incorporated accessibility clauses into the Township's **Purchasing Policy** to reflect these requirements. In the event it is not practicable to do so, an explanation will be provided upon request.

- Training

The Township has an **Accessibility Training Policy #300-36** in place to meet the regulatory training requirements under the IASR. As such, the Township shall ensure that training is provided to all relevant persons including, all persons who are an employee of, or a volunteer with, the Township of Zorra, all persons who participate in developing Zorra's policies, and all other persons who provide goods, services or facilities on behalf of the Township.

The content of the training will include the requirements of the accessibility standards referred to in the IASR and the *Human Rights Code* as it pertains to persons with disabilities. The training provided shall be appropriate to the duties of those being trained. The Township of Zorra provides the following accessibility training opportunities online:

- AODA Customer Service Standards
- AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards

An alternative method of accessibility training can be provided upon request.

Training will be provided as soon as practical, as well as on an ongoing basis if changes to accessibility standards occur. The Township will keep records of the training, including the date on which training is provided and the number of individuals to who it is provided. The names of individuals trained will be recorded for training administration purposes, subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("MFIPPA").

#### 4.0 Information and Communications Standards

The Township is committed to meeting the communication needs of persons with disabilities in accordance with the IASR and will notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports as required.

- Accessible Formats and Communication Standards

Upon request, the Township will provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities in a timely manner and at a cost that is no more than the regular cost charged to other persons.

In determining the suitability of an accessible format or communication support, the Township will consult with the person making the request.

If the Township determines that information or communications are unconvertible, it shall provide the individual requesting the information or communication with an explanation as to why the information or communications are unconvertible and a summary of the



unconvertible information or communications.

- Feedback

The Township has processes in place for receiving and responding to feedback and will ensure that these processes are provided in an accessible manner and with communication supports upon request. The Township shall notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports with respect to the feedback process.

Feedback can be provided via email ([admin@zorra.ca](mailto:admin@zorra.ca)) by phone (519-485-2520) or in person at our Township office located at 274620 27<sup>th</sup> Line, Ingersoll.

- Emergency Information

Where the Township prepares emergency procedures, plans or public safety information and makes the information available to the public, the Township shall provide the information in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports, as soon as practicable, upon request.

- Accessible Website and Web Content

Oxford County has processes in place to ensure that the Township's internet website and web content conform to the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) as required by the IASR.

## 5.0 Employment Standards

The Township is committed to fair and accessible employment practices. The employment standards in the IASR outline the requirements for the accommodation of persons with disabilities during the recruitment and hiring processes and throughout employment with the Township.

- Recruitment

The Township shall notify employees and the public about the availability of accommodation for applicants with disabilities in its recruitment processes. This can be found in the **Recruitment and Hiring Procedures Policy #300-03**.

Specifically, the Township shall:

- Notify job applicants when they are individually selected to participate in an assessment or selection process that accommodations are available upon request in relation to the materials or processes to be used;



- Consult with the applicant and provide or arrange for the provision of a suitable accommodation in a manner that takes into account the applicant's accessibility needs, if the selected applicant requests an accommodation; and
- Notify successful applicants of the policies for accommodating employees with disabilities when making offers of employment.

- Informing Employees of Supports

The Township's **Work Accommodation and Safe Return to Work Policy #300-35** documents how the Township shall support its employees with disabilities, including, but not limited to, the provision of job accommodations that take into account an employee's accessibility needs due to a disability.

This information shall be provided to new employees as soon as practicable after they begin their employment and shall be updated for all employees whenever there is a change to the existing policies.

- Accessible Formats and Communication Supports for Employees

As per the Township's **Work Accommodation and Safe Return to Work Policy #300-35**, should an employee with a disability request an accessible format and/or communication support, the Township shall consult with the employee to provide or arrange for the provision of suitable accessible formats and communication supports for:

- Information that is needed in order to perform the employee's job; and
- Information that is generally available to employees in the workplace.

- Workplace Emergency Response Information

The Township shall provide individualized workplace emergency response information to employees who have a disability if the disability is such that the individualized information is necessary and the Township is aware of the need for accommodation. The Township shall provide the information as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the need for accommodation.

If an employee who receives individualized workplace emergency response information requires assistance and with the employee's consent, the Township shall provide the workplace emergency response information to the person designated by the employer to provide assistance to the employee.

The Township shall review the individualized workplace emergency response information:

- When the employee moves to a different location in the organization,
- When overall accommodation needs or plans are reviewed, and



- When the employer reviews its general emergency response policies.

- Documented Individual Accommodation Plans

The Township has in place a written process for the development of documented individual accommodation plans for employees with disabilities under the Township's **Work Accommodation and Safe Return to Work Policy #300-35**.

Individual accommodation plans shall:

- (a) If requested, include any information regarding accessible format and communications supports,
- (b) If required, include individualized workplace emergency response information; and
- (c) Identify any other accommodation that is to be provided.

- Return to Work Process

The Township's **Work Accommodation and Safe Return to Work Policy #300-35** documents the return to work process for employees who have been absent from work due to a disability and require disability-related accommodation in order to return to work. The process outlines the steps the Township will take to facilitate the return to work of employees absent due to disability and include documented individual accommodation plans.

- Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, Redeployment

The Township is committed to improving employment performance as put forward in the Township's **Performance Management, Career Development and Redeployment Policy #300-34**. Furthermore, this policy takes into account the accessibility needs and/or individual accommodation plans of employees when:

- Using performance management processes;
- Providing career development and advancement; and
- Using redeployment.

## 6.0 Transportation Standards

The transportation standards of the IASR sets out the requirements to prevent and remove barriers to public transportation, so that everyone can travel more easily in Ontario. It covers:

- Conventional transportation services, such as:
  - Municipal transit buses
  - Motor coaches – Not Greyhound (Federal)
  - Rail based transportation (e.g., subways, commuter trains, GO Train etc.) – Not VIA Rail (Federal);



- Specialized transportation services for people with disabilities; and
- Taxicabs, where a municipality has chosen to license such operations.

The Township is not currently directly involved in the delivery of transportation services and therefore, the transportation standard is not applicable. The Township will review the standard again, should service provisions change into the future.

## 8.0. Design of Public Spaces Standards (Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment)

The Township is committed to designing public spaces that are free from barriers and accessible to all persons we serve. The Township will comply with the design of public spaces standards with respect to public spaces that are newly constructed or redeveloped, including:

- Recreational trails and beach access routes
- Outdoor public use eating areas
- Outdoor play spaces
- Exterior paths or travel
- Accessible parking
- Obtaining services
- Maintenance of accessible elements

The Township shall ensure that all technical requirements are followed for public spaces that are newly constructed or redeveloped.

### 8.1 Consultation, recreational trails

The Township of Zorra shall consult on the following before construction of new, or redevelopment of existing recreational trails:

1. The slope of the trail.
2. The need for, and location of, ramps on the trail.
3. The need for, location and design of,
  - a. Rest areas,
  - b. Passing areas,
  - c. Viewing areas,
  - d. Amenities on the trail, and
  - e. Any other pertinent feature.

The Township of Zorra shall consult on the matters listed above by consulting with the public and persons with disabilities.

### 8.2 Maintenance of Accessible Elements Procedure

The Township will maintain the following procedures for preventative and emergency





maintenance of accessible elements in its public spaces:

- Staff will regularly monitor the accessible public spaces elements implemented in their service area. Staff will actively monitor feedback submissions or notifications from the public that an accessible element requires maintenance and implement corrective actions, as necessary.
- Staff will report any issue or deficiency impacting the accessible public spaces element(s) in a timely manner within their service area for further review and/or follow up. Potential outcomes may include, the element undergoes a plan for remediation and/or emergency maintenance may take place, depending on the circumstances.
- Notice of temporary service disruptions of accessible elements shall be provided to the public and in accessible formats upon request.

## 9.0 Customer Service Standards

The Township of Zorra is committed to providing exceptional and accessible service for our customers. Goods and services will be provided in a manner that respects the dignity and independence to all customers. The provision of services to persons with disabilities will be integrated wherever possible. Persons with disabilities will be given an opportunity equal to that given to others, to obtain, use or benefit from the goods and services provided by and on behalf of the Township of Zorra.

The *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service*, O.Reg. 429/07 was revoked on July 1, 2016, as it was consolidated into the IASR. Under the customer service standards of the IASR, the following requirements are included:

- (a) Establishment of policies for the provision of goods, services, and facilities to persons with disabilities;
- (b) Use of service animals and support persons;
- (c) Notice of temporary disruptions;
- (d) Training;
- (e) Feedback process; and
- (f) Format of documents.

The Township of Zorra has an **Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy #200-09** that establishes the customer service standard for all Township employees to provide accessible service to our customers and governs the manner of conduct to ensure the dignity and independence of all our customers.



Policy: Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation

No: 200-18

Section: Administration

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Effective Date: January 8, 2019

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**Next revision date:** (every five years)

January 8, 2024

**Accessible Formats:**

If you require this document to be in an accessible format, please contact the Director of Corporate Services at [clerk@zorra.ca](mailto:clerk@zorra.ca) or 519-485-2490 ext. 7228.