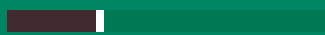


# ACCESSIBILITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT



2023-2024

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Durham College (DC) prioritizes its commitment to creating a positive and inclusive environment for all visitors, both online and in person. Our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) aims to eliminate accessibility barriers in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards, to ensure that everyone at DC can thrive in a respectful, diverse, and inclusive community.

This Annual Status Report for the 2023-2024 academic year highlights significant strides made in enhancing accessibility across DC's campuses, focusing on the continuous improvement of physical spaces and advancing initiatives. Our proactive approach aligns with the AODA's standards, which are crucial in identifying and removing barriers to guarantee the success of our entire campus community.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on continuing to improve our accessibility initiatives and building upon the progress we have made.

## ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023-2024

### Objective #1:

Continue improving the accessibility of physical spaces on campus as identified in the 2020 accessibility audit five-year plan.

Priority areas have been identified and improved accordingly, including:

#### Oshawa Campus:

- » Installation of a mobile charging station inside the Galleria.
- » Door enhancements and renovations include:
  - » C/L Wing exterior entrance replacement with AODA compliant door, hardware, and door operator.
  - » Gordon Willey Building door operator additions at the following locations: A219 Wing men's washroom, Print Shop, SW206, SW207, JW first floor corridor, A140, F Wing first floor south exterior, JW first floor north vestibule, A119 and A219 men's washrooms, door operator upgrades updates to SW101, SW106, SW116, SW117, SW206, SW207, and H132.
  - » F wing and B wing connecting corridor doors on the second floor received hardware upgrades, additional hold-open device added to open corridor access.
  - » Student Services Building (SSB) and the Centre for Collaborative Education (CFCE) received new link doors, swing clear hinges, hardware, and AODA compliant glass.
  - » Door hardware upgrades and installation of swing clear hinges throughout Gordon Willey Building.
- » Stairwell renovations in B Wing, A Wing, C Wing, L Wing, and B Wing behind Riot Radio.
- » Installation of AODA compliant glass in C Wing first floor classrooms, C135 and C138, as well as the upper entrances in lecture hall C113.
- » Exterior entrance renovations include:
  - » Vestibule mullion removal, new door, and AODA compliant glass in the north exterior of C Wing.
  - » Installation of AODA compliant door and hardware replacement in the west exterior of B Wing.
  - » Installation of magnetic hold-open devices in east entrance of H231.
  - » Installation of automatic door operators (ADO), hold-open device and fire system configuration in west entrance of H231.
  - » The south exterior walkway of the Centre for Innovation and Research (CIR) was extended with a rest area.
  - » The CIR event space, CIR102, corridor entrance received upgrades that exceed AODA standards, including new door, glass, and hardware upgrades, an ADO, and card access lockdown feature.
  - » Additional AODA picnic tables were distributed around campus, located outside the CIR, SSB, SW Courtyard, Library, as well as the following Ontario Tech buildings: UA – Science Building, UB – Business & IT Building; U5; SIR – Software and Informatics Research.
- » South pond paved walkway extension with rest stops.
- » Additional rest stops along walking path south of Babcock Field includes benches and space to turn around.

#### Whitby Campus:

- » Accessible parking stall bollards were installed with signage.
- » Mobile charging station was installed in the cafeteria.
- » All entrances and swing doors inside PROTO and the EV Lab exceed AODA standards with new doors, hardware, glass, and an ADO.
- » Updated wayfinding inside the main shop of the Don Lovisa Building.
- » The Don Lovisa Building received new door hardware upgrades, locksets, operator buttons, and additional swing clear hinges. The northwest shop exterior entrance received new AODA compliant doors, glass, hardware, and door operator.
- » New door operators, hardware, and emergency call buttons were installed in the W. Galen Weston Centre for Food first floor universal washrooms.

### Objective #2:

Continue the inclusive photography initiative at Whitby campus to showcase unique accessibility features available for students, employees, and visitors.

- » Conducted inclusive photoshoots at Whitby campus that highlighted the accessibility features available.

### Objective #3:

Implement a quarterly employee newsletter feature that aligns with notable accessibility dates of significance, progress updates and successes throughout the year.

- » Distributed employee and student communications to share annual Committee updates and provide resources to help employees incorporate accessibility into their work.
- » Distributed communication about National AccessAbility Week.
- » Distributed information for employees in DC Digest's "Did You Know?" section on the Committee's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.
- » Published a guest blog post on teaching accessibly at DC to help inspire faculty and inform prospective and current students on the accessibility efforts being made at DC.
- » Distributed employee and student communications announcing the new mobility device charging stations.
- » Distributed an employee communication reminder about the accessibility checklist related to procurement processes.
- » Utilized accessibility photos to ensure we better represent all members of our campus community in marketing materials.

### Objective #4:

Continue updating college forms to be consistently formatted and accessible.

- » The Forms Management Committee continues to work with all departments at DC to ensure our forms support accessibility. All forms include an opening sentence indicating alternate formats are available upon request.
- » To date, 270 forms have been made accessible, with 124 forms remaining (the number of forms in the audit has increased year over year).
- » All fillable PDF forms created with Adobe Acrobat Pro are checked using the built-in Accessibility Checker.
- » Forms created with Microsoft Forms must have an immersive reader enabled as well as the ability to increase and decrease font size to support the readers' needs.

### Objective #5:

Continue to audit existing software for AODA compliance.

- » Continued auditing software for accessibility. This year, ten additional software were audited.





#### Objective #6:

**Conduct DC faculty survey focused on Universal Design for Learning and Universal Instructional Design, analyze results to determine the resources needed for improved accessibility in DC's learning environments.**

- » Developed and distributed a survey for faculty to share their current practices of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Universal Instructional Design to determine the resources needed for courses to become more accessible at DC.
- » Analyzed results to determine the resources needed for improved accessibility in DC's learning environments, which include two main themes:
  - » Provide faculty with more resources and training opportunities on easy-to-use tools that promote UDL.
  - » Deliver faculty training on the use of a checklist to assess individual courses on the use of UDL.

#### Objective #7:

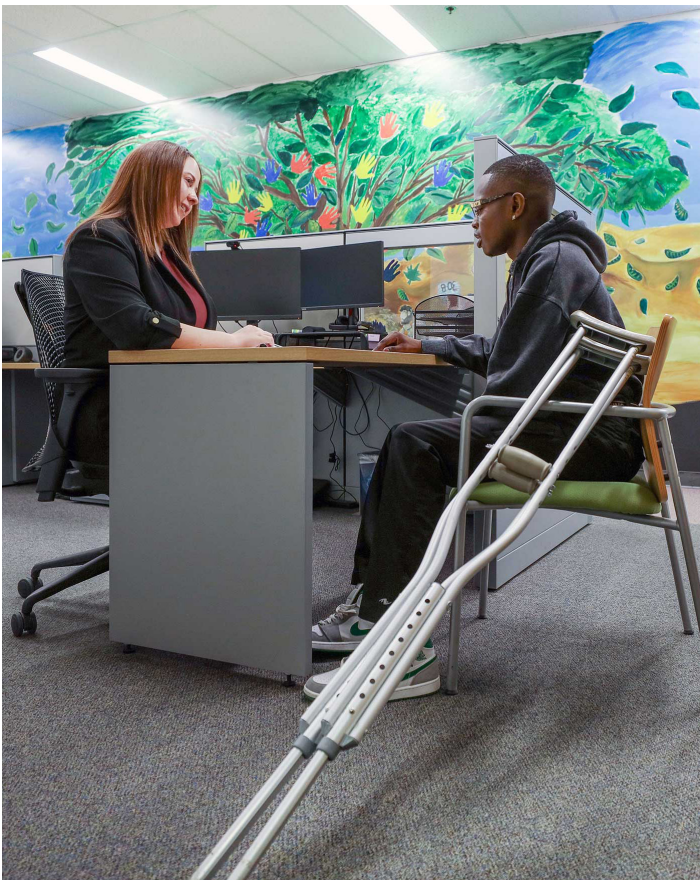
**Analyze feedback collected from the 2023 National AccessAbility Week, determine next steps, and communicate to DC community.**

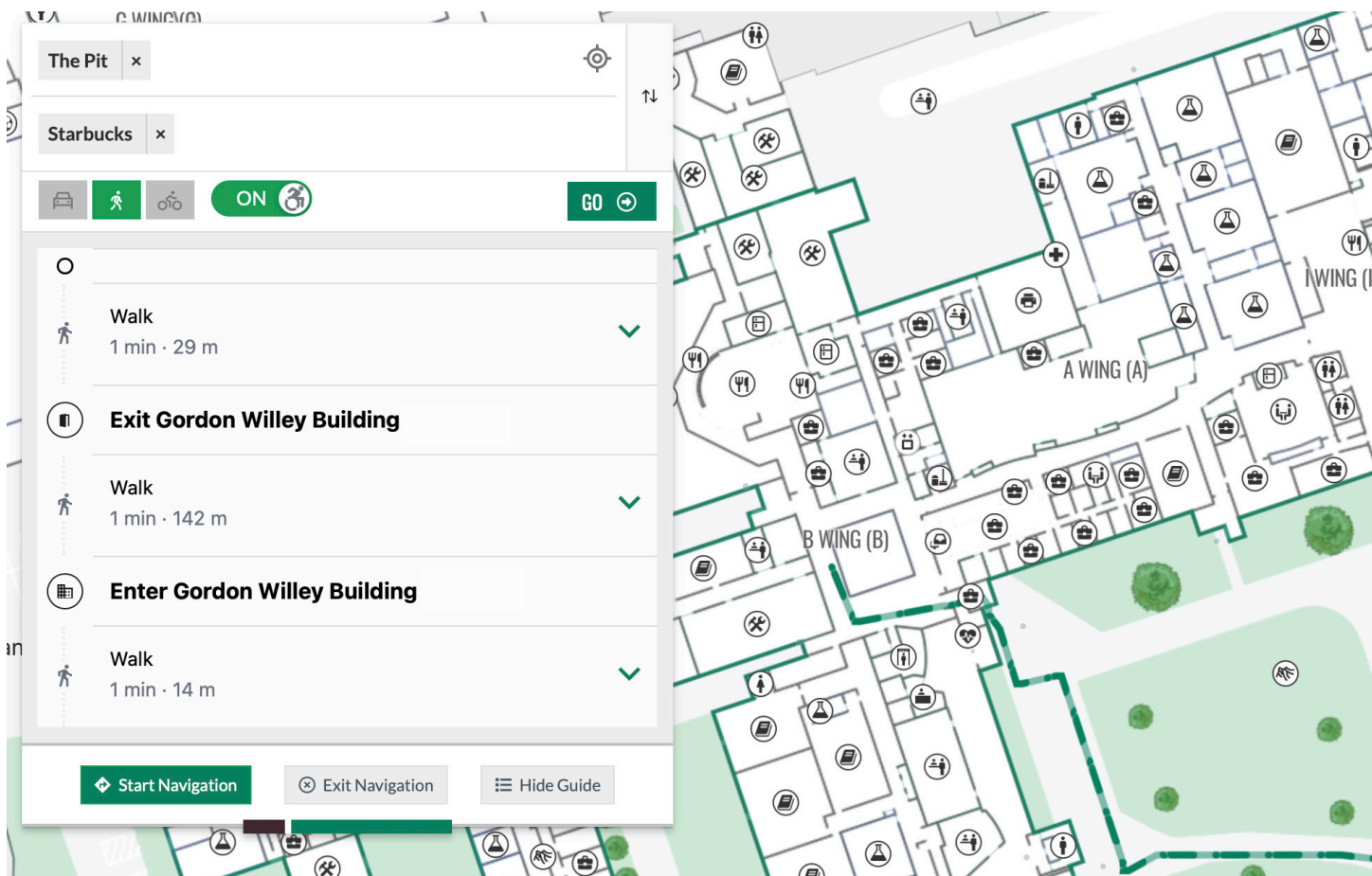
- » Collected feedback during National AccessAbility Week and are in the process of analyzing the data to determine next steps. Responses were complex and require investigation into the feasibility of implementation. The findings will be communicated to the DC community.
- » Various suggestions were already implemented, which indicates communication on available services and supports should be considered.

#### Objective #8:

**Continue initiatives to remain compliant with AODA requirements.**

- » The DC website auditing tool, Site Improve, maintained a 99% score based on Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA accessibility standards.
- » Social media alt text and/or image descriptions are added to all of DC's social media posts.
- » Access and Support Centre (ASC) collaborated with the Communications and Marketing team on accessible naming conventions for DC's new online map.
- » Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) participated in the eCampus Ontario Accessibility Advisory Group to create a repository of resources for faculty across Ontario on Digital Accessibility. CTL also supported the development of Postsecondary Course Accessibility Guide and Reference Manual in collaboration with the University of Waterloo to help faculty identify and resolve accessibility gaps in our courses to ensure AODA is followed. Additionally, accessibility resources were shared in CTL Monthly.
- » CTL extended content on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in full-time faculty orientation.
- » CTL reviewed and revised DC Connect interactive components to ensure they meet accessibility requirements.
- » Digital Learning Steering Committee developed and launched an Online Course Quality Rubric, which includes a review of course accessibility and AODA requirements.
- » The Access and Support Centre:
  - » Hired a new manager with a strong background in mental health to support the increase in mental health exceptionalities.
  - » Developed a new Accessibility Coach position with a focus on supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing coordination.
  - » Collaborated with the Campus Health and Wellness Centre to streamline Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) referrals.
  - » Updated accessible lab with new computers, ergonomic chairs and desks.
  - » Updated digital formats of course work to better support accessibility needs including the student access plan self-renewal system.
  - » Implemented new AI assistive technologies in recommendations for students.
- » The Communications and Marketing team:
  - » Worked with DC faculty to ensure the 2023-24 online Annual Report was AODA compliant.
  - » Collaborated with DC faculty to discuss how AODA compliance can be met in all future marketing materials.





## ACCESSIBILITY SUCCESSES AT DURHAM COLLEGE

- » The launch of DC's new interactive campus map in July 2024 includes an accessible wayfinding feature and a toggle button that provides accessible friendly routes which avoids stairs and incorporates the use of elevators and ramps.

## NEXT STEPS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2024-2025

**Objective #1:** Continue improving the accessibility of physical spaces on campus as identified in the 2020 accessibility audit five-year plan.

**Objective #2:** Continue updating college forms to be consistently formatted and accessible.

**Objective #3:** Continue developing employee communications to align with accessibility related Days of Awareness, accessibility progress updates, and successes throughout the year.

**Objective #4:** Continue to audit existing software for AODA compliance.

**Objective #5:** Utilize the insights from the faculty survey to create and implement resources and training opportunities focusing on easy-to-use tools, like checklists, to enhance accessibility and integrate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles into DC's courses.

**Objective #6:** Continue initiatives to remain compliant with AODA requirements.

**Objective #7:** Develop a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2025-2029.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

We encourage you to visit our [Accessibility web page](#) for helpful resources and updated information.

DC will communicate with people with disabilities in ways that consider their disabilities. Therefore, as per the AODA, college documents are available in an alternate format upon request. DC policies are available in electronic format on [our website](#).

For more information on this accessibility plan, please contact the Office of the Dean, Students at [studentaffairs@durhamcollege.ca](mailto:studentaffairs@durhamcollege.ca).











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