



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

BOARD-WIDE BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE

*"I can do all things through HIM who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13 (NRSVCE)*

Drafted**May 24, 2023****Meeting Date****June 8, 2023**

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INFORMATION REPORT

Vision: *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in
Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

Mission: *Nurturing the faith development and academic
excellence of our Catholic learning community through the
love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce
Associate Director of Corporate
Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2022, Roth IAMS Ltd. was retained to undertake an assessment of all TCDSB school and administrative buildings to determine compliance with the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA), which references the 2012 Ontario Building Code (OBC), amended in 2015 to include Section 3.8 Barrier-Free Design, and O. Reg. 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standards.

The detailed assessments of 227 buildings included: parking lots, exterior pedestrian walkways and ramps, building entrances, interior paths of travel, elevator access, life safety systems, washrooms, and signage.

Within the study, a separate and detailed report on the existing accessibility barriers was prepared for each TCDSB facility and includes estimated costs for barrier-free accessibility improvements. The data that has been gathered will be used to comply with the reporting requirements of the AODA and to inform the Board's Multi-year Accessibility Plan, the annual Renewal Plan as well as accommodations for students and employees with disabilities.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 10 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report provides the Board of Trustees with information on the Board-wide Building Accessibility Assessment that was completed in April 2023.

C. BACKGROUND

1. ***The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) of 2005 is a law that sets out a process for developing and enforcing accessibility standards.*** The purpose of the AODA is to develop, implement and enforce standards for accessibility in five areas: customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation and design of public spaces. School boards are Designated Public Sector Organisations and are required to comply with the law.

2. ***The Board is required to comply with the AODA's Accessibility Standards by 2025.*** Included in this standard is the Design of Public Space Standard, which is the portion of the act that addresses the built environment. It establishes a baseline level of accessibility for service counters, waiting areas with fixed seating and outdoor spaces, such as sidewalks and parking lots, but has limited prescriptive requirements.
3. ***The AODA references Section 3.8 Barrier-Free Design of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) as a standard for the design and construction of accessible public spaces.*** However, compliance with the OBC is not a requirement of the AODA.
4. ***The OBC provides requirements for making buildings accessible and includes prescriptive or dimensioned requirements for ramps, washrooms, building entrances, doors, hardware, elevators, lifts, and interior ramps.*** Accessibility requirements under the Ontario Building Code (OBC) only apply to new construction or extensive renovations of an existing building. Revisions to the OBC are not retroactively applied to previously constructed buildings.
5. ***To support the Board's compliance with the AODA reporting requirements and the development of the Board's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, a comprehensive survey of existing barrier-free elements and amenities was required.*** Because buildings are required to comply with the version of the OBC in effect at the time of construction and because various building modifications have taken place over the years, the Board did not have a consolidated or complete record for each building.
6. ***Accessibility upgrades in schools are funded through the Annual Renewal Plan.*** Estimated costing data in the Accessibility Assessment is required to inform future Renewal Plans.
7. ***Roth IAMS Ltd. was retained in June 2022 to undertake an audit of all school, administrative and other facilities within the Board.***

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. ***The Ministry of Education (EDU) Accessibility Calculator formed the platform for the Accessibility Assessment.*** The EDU Accessibility Calculator is based on the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA), which references the 2012 Ontario Building Code (OBC), amended in 2015 to include Section 3.8 Barrier-Free Design, and O. Reg. 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standards. It is focused on the barrier-free access path of travel from the parking lot (parking spaces) to the key amenities (elevators, strobe lights, washrooms) within the building.

2. ***Roth IAMS conducted on-site investigations at every TCDSB building using a high-level checklist, configured with the prescribed specifications/ regulations to capture the conformance of the building elements.*** Distance measuring gauges and slope meters were used to confirm compliance to prescribed barrier-free accessibility requirements. The information gathered on site was input into the EDU Accessibility Calculator.
3. ***Where a building element was analysed as non-compliant to the design standard, a cost estimate to address the potential barrier was calculated.*** Estimated improvement costs to address accessibility barriers were based on the EDU Accessibility Calculator. Given recent market conditions (supply chain crisis, the increase in the consumer price index, etc.) an inflation factor of 40% was applied to the improvement costs provided in the EDU Accessibility Calculator.
4. ***A separate written report has been submitted for each facility.*** The EDU Accessibility Calculator for each facility has also been provided in a separate Excel spreadsheet and includes photos to support the checklist data. Please see Appendices for sample reports for St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School and St. Joseph's Morrow Park Secondary School.
5. ***The two sample schools included in the appendices were selected*** as they represent the most recently completed new school, St. Joseph's Morrow Park, and one of our older sites with multiple floor levels within the building, St. Thomas Aquinas
A high-level summary chart identifying compliance and non-compliance of all AODA elements and amenities of all schools has been provided as a quick reference tool. Please see the appendices for excerpts of the summary chart for the same sample schools.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. ***The data gathered as part of the Accessibility Assessment measures compliance to the current requirements of the Ontario Building Code.*** Non-compliance to the current OBC does not indicate that the Board is in contravention of either the OBC or the AODA. Requirements of the OBC are revised on an ongoing basis and continue to evolve. Buildings are required to be in compliance with the OBC in effect at the time of building permit application. All TCDSB buildings meet this requirement.
2. ***Data gathered from the Accessibility Assessment will be used to inform the Multi-year Accessibility Plan*** and other reporting required by the AODA.

3. *Data and costing from the Accessibility Assessment will be used to inform upcoming Renewal Plans.*
4. *Data from the Accessibility Assessment will also be used to evaluate an existing school or building* to meet accommodations required by students or staff.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board of Trustees.