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**PROCEDURE/
POLICY**

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), is a law passed by the Government of Ontario to allow for the development of specific standards of accessibility to move organizations in Ontario forward on accessibility. The first of several standards, Customer Service O.Reg 429/07 applies to all organizations that provide goods or service to the public or other organizations in Ontario and have at least one employee and designated public sector organizations.

The Standard sets timelines for compliance by designated public sector organizations by January 1, 2010 and organizations in the private sector, including non-profit by January 1, 2012.

To meet compliance with the Accessible Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429-07, under the above noted Act, the City of Brockville must ensure that every person who deals with the public or other third parties who may deal with the public on our behalf receives training on how to provide customer service to people with disabilities by January 1, 2010.

Our Commitment

The City of Brockville strives at all times to provide its goods and services in a way that respects the dignity and independence of all people. The City of Brockville is committed to giving people with disabilities the same opportunity to access our goods and services and allowing them to benefit from the same services, in the same place and in a similar way as other customers.

Exclusion

*This Accessibility Customer Service Policy shall not apply during any period where the Mayor, or the Mayor's designate has declared a "State of Emergency" as defined under the **Emergency Management Act**.*

Providing Goods and Services to People with Disabilities

The City of Brockville will provide goods and services to people with disabilities, with particular consideration to the following areas:

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Communication

The City of Brockville will communicate with people with disabilities in ways that take into account their disability. Staff who interact with customers will be trained on how to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities.

The City of Brockville is committed to providing fully accessible telephone service to our customers. Staff will be trained to communicate with customers over the telephone in clear and plain language, to speak clearly and slowly and to tailor their responses as much as possible in support of the individual.

The City of Brockville will offer to communicate with customers by other means, including Bell Canada Relay Service or e-mail, if telephone communication is not suitable to their communication needs or is not available.

Assistive Devices

The City of Brockville is committed to serving people with disabilities who use assistive devices to obtain, use or benefit from our goods and services. Staff will be trained and become familiar with various assistive devices that may be used by customers with disabilities while accessing our goods or services.

The City of Brockville will also ensure that staff know how to use the assistive devices which are available on our premises, including electronic door openers, elevators and lifts.

Correspondence, invoices and other documentation

The City of Brockville is committed to providing accessible information to all of our customers.

For this reason, correspondence, invoices and other documentation will be provided in large print or by e-mail, **upon request**.

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The City of Brockville may provide a document, or information contained in a document, in a format that takes into account the person's disability. The City of Brockville and the person with a disability may agree upon the format to be used for the document or information.

Any questions customers may have about the content of a document will be answered in person, by telephone or e-mail.

The Use of Service Animals and Support Persons

Service Animals

The City of Brockville is committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal, in the areas of our premises that are open to the public and other third parties. All staff, volunteers and others dealing with the public will be properly trained in how to interact with people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal.

An animal is a service animal for a person with a disability:

- i) if it is readily apparent that the animal is used by the person for reasons relating to his or her disability; or
- ii) if the person provides a letter from a physician or nurse confirming that the person requires the animal for reasons relating to the disability.

Support Person

The City of Brockville is committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a support person. Any person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person will be allowed to enter the City of Brockville's buildings with his or her support person. At no time will a person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person, be prevented from having access to his or her support person while on City premises.

A "support person" means, in relation to a person with a disability, another person who accompanies him or her in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care or medical needs or with access to goods or services.



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If admission to an event is permitted and fees are payable to the City of Brockville, the Support Person is permitted to attend at the event at their own cost.

If admission to an event is permitted and fees are payable to a third party, the Support Person is permitted to attend the event at their own cost.

The Brockville Transit System permits Support Persons to ride without charge.

Customers will be informed of this policy by a notice that will be posted at each building and on the City of Brockville’s website.

Notice of Disruption in Service

The City of Brockville will provide customers with notice in the event of a planned or unexpected disruption in the facilities or services usually used by people with disabilities.

This notice will include information about the reason for the disruption, its anticipated duration, and a description of alternative facilities or services, if available.

Notice may be given by posting the information at a conspicuous place on premises owned or operated by the City of Brockville, by posting it on the City of Brockville’s website or by such other method as is reasonable in the circumstances.

Training

The City of Brockville will provide training to:

- every person who participates in developing the policy, practices and procedures under Ontario Regulation 429/07 – Accessibility Standards for Customer Service



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- every person who deals with the public on behalf of the City of Brockville by January 1, 2010, including:
 - Members of Council;
 - Employees;
 - Members of boards and committees of Council
 - Agents;
 - Volunteers;
 - 3rd parties
- new employees, volunteers, management, etc. shall receive training as soon as “practicable”, after commencing duties.
- agents working on various projects for the municipality and who have been approved by successful tender shall be responsible for providing their own training to meet the requirements of Ontario Regulation 429/07

Training will include the following:

The purposes of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the requirements of the customer service standard

How to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities

How to interact with people with disabilities who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a service animal or a support person

How to use the automatic door openers, elevators and lifts at the City of Brockville’s premises

What to do if a person with a disability is having difficulty in accessing the City of Brockville’s goods and services

The City of Brockville’s policies, practices and procedures relating to the customer service standard.

Staff will be trained on policies, practices and procedures that affect the way goods and services are provided to people with disabilities. Staff will also be trained on an ongoing basis when changes are made to these policies, practices and procedures.

Training Records

Training records shall be kept, including the dates when the training is provided, number of individuals to whom the training was provided and the signature of all those individuals trained on a particular date.



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Feedback Process

The ultimate goal of the City of Brockville is to meet and surpass customer expectations while serving all people, including those with disabilities. Comments regarding how well those expectations are being met are welcome and appreciated.

Feedback regarding the way the City of Brockville provides goods and services to people with disabilities can be made by using a feedback form, by mail, e-mail, or verbally. All feedback should be directed to the Municipal Clerk. Customers can expect a response within thirty (30) days.

Modifications to This or Other Policies

The City of Brockville is committed to developing customer service policies that respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Therefore, no changes will be made to this policy before considering the impact on people with disabilities.

Any policy of the City of Brockville that does not respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities will be modified or removed.

Questions About This Policy

This policy exists to achieve service excellence to customers with disabilities.

If anyone has a question about this policy, or if the purpose of this policy is not understood, inquiries should be referred to the Accessibility Coordinator for the City of Brockville.



ACCESSIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE
FEEDBACK FORM

**Providing Goods and Services
to People with Disabilities**

Thank you for visiting the City of Brockville. We value all of our customers and strive to meet everyone's needs.

Please tell us the date and time of your visit: _____

Staff Member, Department or Service Location you visited:

Did we respond to your customer service needs today?

YES NO

Was our customer service provided to you in an accessible manner?

YES SOMEWHAT NO (please explain below)

Did you have any problems accessing our goods and services?

YES (please explain below) SOMEWHAT (please explain below) NO

Please add any other comments you may have:

Contact information (optional): _____

Accessibility Coordinator
1 King Street West, P.O. Box 5000, Brockville ON, K6V 7A5
Phone: 613-342-8772 Fax 613-498-2793 brockville.com



City of Brockville
Service Disruption
Notice

There will be a scheduled service disruption at the _____.

The disruptions will be from _____ until _____.

These disruptions include:

On behalf of the City of Brockville we would like to thank you for your patience in this matter.

Should you have any further questions please contact:

Lynn Murray
Deputy City Clerk and Accessibility Coordinator
City of Brockville
Phone : 613-342-8772 ext. 4431
Fax : 613-498-2793
lmurray@brockville.com
brockville.com



City of Brockville
Unexpected Service Disruption
Notice

There has been an unexpected service disruption(s) at the _____.

The estimated time of the service disruption(s) are from _____ until _____.

These disruption(s) include:

On behalf of the City of Brockville we would like to thank you for your patience in this matter.

Should you have any further questions please contact:

Lynn Murray
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City of Brockville
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