

# ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS

## NEWSLETTER

### Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA)

When Ontario crossed into 2025, it was supposed to do so as an accessible province. Instead, advocates say it's missed its own deadline. The Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA) was created to help people with disabilities fully participate in society, bring them to the table in crafting regulations and build mechanisms to enforce standards. Advocates and experts hailed the legislation as ground breaking and progressive.

The AODA was supposed to create enforceable accessibility standards for goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings before 2025, applying to everyone in the public and private sector. Implementation of the act has been reviewed four times over the years, most recently by Rich Donovan. His 2023 report found the legislation wasn't being enforced and the state of accessibility in the province was in "crisis."



### The Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities

Rick and Amanda Hansen believe that people of all abilities should have the right to a barrier-free education. The Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities, funded generously by the April 1 Foundation, provides financial support to Canadian youth with disabilities to pursue post-secondary education and realize their full potential.

This scholarship aims to make a profound impact on the lives of Canadian youth with disabilities by removing financial barriers and supporting career aspirations through post-secondary education.

Funding of up to \$10,000 per year (up to a maximum of \$40,000) is available for youth with disabilities looking to complete a 1- to 4-year post-secondary program at a publicly funded institution in Canada.

<https://www.rickhansen.com/>

### NCDSB Barrier List 2024-2025

#### Key Barriers include:

- interior accessible door barriers
- accessible school parking spots
- accessible playground issues
- accessible washroom issues

### Statistics Canada Accessibility Facts

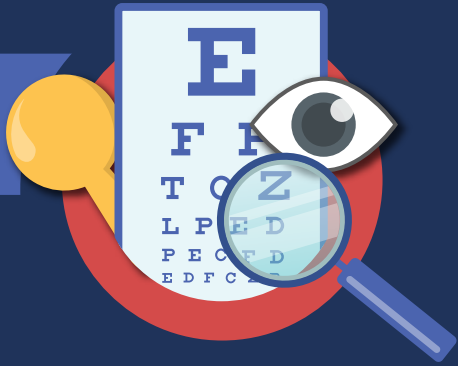
- The number of Canadians with at least one disability has doubled in ten years, a reality that should push governments to help reduce barriers to accessibility, says the head of a human rights organization.
- Statistics Canada data shows that 27 per cent of people 15 and older -- about eight million Canadians -- reported having at least one disability in 2022, about twice the percentage of people who reported a disability 10 years ago.

### Handicap Parking Coming Soon to All Schools!

We are excited to announce that, in our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for all, we will be installing designated handicap parking spaces at all of our schools. We look forward to making our schools more accessible and welcoming for everyone!



# SEEING DISABILITIES, 2022



In 2022,  
**7.4%** of Canadians  
(or almost **2.2 million**  
individuals) aged 15 years and  
over had a seeing disability.<sup>1</sup>

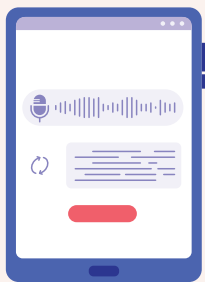
## Proportion of Canadians with a seeing disability by age group

<b>4.3%</b> 15 to 24 years	<b>4.5%</b> 25 to 44 years
<b>8.9%</b> 45 to 64 years	<b>11.4%</b> 65 years and over

**18%** of persons with  
a seeing disability needed  
specialized care from  
an ophthalmologist,  
optometrist or optician.



**Women+ (8.8%)**  
were more likely  
than **men+ (5.9%)**  
to have a seeing  
disability.<sup>2</sup>



**22%**  
of persons with a seeing  
disability used specialized  
features on a device,  
specialized software or  
apps, or other adaptations.

## Of these individuals...

<b>38%</b>	used speech-to-text, text-to-speech or voice recognition software
<b>29%</b>	used screen magnification software
<b>12%</b>	used a screen reader

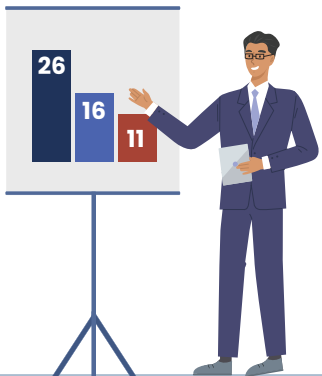
Approximately 6 in 10 (**63%**)  
persons with a more severe  
seeing disability **received help<sup>3</sup>**  
**with at least one type of**  
**everyday activity**, compared  
to 4 in 10 (**43%**) of persons  
with a less severe  
seeing disability.



**36%** of employed persons aged  
25 to 64 with a seeing disability required one  
or more **workplace accommodation**.

## Of these individuals...

<b>26%</b>	required flexible work arrangements
<b>16%</b>	required workstation modifications
<b>11%</b>	required other equipment or arrangements



1. A person is defined as having a seeing disability if their daily activities are limited because of difficulties with their vision. Since disability types are not mutually exclusive, a person may experience more than one disability at a time.
2. The "women+" category includes women as well as some non-binary persons, while the "men+" category includes men as well as some non-binary persons.
3. Includes paid or unpaid help received from family, friends, neighbours or organizations.

**Note:** The Canadian Survey on Disability covers Canadians aged 15 years and over who experience limitations in their daily activities because of a long-term condition or health-related problem.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2022.

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