



Policy:	AODA: Built Environment and Public Spaces Policy
Department of Ownership:	Infrastructure & Sustainability
Effective Date:	December 19, 2023
Date Last Reviewed:	December 15, 2023
Scheduled Review Date:	December 1, 2024
Supersedes:	All previous Policies and/or Statements
Related Policies:	AODA – Customer Service Policy; AODA – Employment Policy; AODA – Information and Communications Policy

PURPOSE

This policy is intended to meet the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 191/11 for the Built Environment and Public Spaces Standard set forth under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. This policy applies to the accessibility of our facilities and public spaces for people with disabilities.

For reference, the AODA regulations can be found online at: [AODA Legislative Regulations](#)

We strive to make our facilities and public spaces provided by Victoria University accessible for all and in doing so shall follow the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity. Victoria University is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities in relation to accessing barrier free environments and public spaces.

The *Ontario Building Code*, which has a section on Barrier-Free Design and the AODA IASR Design of Public Spaces Standards are both standards to which Victoria University must adhere. These standards establish the minimum threshold for accessibility in the built environment.

This Policy applies to Victoria University's operations in Ontario, Canada and to all Employees, Contractors or others performing work on behalf of Victoria University, in Ontario.

DEFINITIONS

Accessibility – A concept integral to human rights that refers to the absence of barriers that prevent individuals and/or groups from fully participating in all social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of society. The term is often linked to people with disabilities and their rights to access, and refers to design characteristics of products, devices, information, services, facilities, or public spaces that enable independent use, or support when required, and access by people with a variety of disabilities.



Accessible – Refers to products, devices, information, services, facilities, or public spaces that provide for independent, equitable and dignified access for people with disabilities, including but not limited to those with visual, auditory, sensory, cognitive and mobility related disabilities. The concept of accessible design ensures both “direct access” (i.e., unassisted) and “indirect access,” referring to compatibility with a person’s assistive technology.

Barrier - Defined by the AODA as anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy, or a practice.

Public Spaces – Refers to outdoor recreational trails, beach access routes, boardwalks, ramps, outdoor public use eating areas, outdoor play spaces, outdoor paths of travel, accessible parking, and service counters.

GUIDELINES

Victoria University is committed to applying the following standards as part of the IASR (Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation).

Obtaining Services

When constructing or replacing service counters, fixed queuing guides and waiting areas, the AODA requires Victoria University to make them accessible to people with disabilities.

Maintenance of Accessible Elements

The AODA requires Victoria University to develop and implement procedures for preventative and emergency maintenance and temporary disruptions of accessible elements in public spaces.



Public Consultation

The AODA requires Victoria University to provide opportunity for public consultation on the development or re-development of public spaces, including:

- Recreation trails
- Outdoor play spaces
- Rest areas along exterior paths
- On-street parking

POLICY HISTORY & APPROVALS

NATURE OF CHANGE	VERSION NO.	DATE	RESPONSIBLE FOR CHANGE	RATIFIED/ APPROVED BY
Policy Creation	1.0	12/18/2023	Infrastructure & Sustainability/ Associate CAO	President