

Ritz Lutheran Villa Corporation (West Perth Village) Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Introduction and Statement of Commitment

The Ontario government passed the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) in 2005. It is the goal of the government of Ontario to make Ontario accessible by 2025. Ritz Lutheran Villa Corporation (West Perth Village) (hereafter referred to as West Perth Village) is committed to complying with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* and all of the standards under it in order to meet the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities in a timely manner.

The regulations associated with the Integrated Accessibility Standards (hereafter referred to as the “IASR”) under the AODA require that effective January 1, 2014, West Perth Village establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan which outlines the organization’s strategy to prevent and remove barriers for persons with disabilities and to meet its requirements under the IASR.

Under the AODA, the following accessibility standards set certain requirements that are applicable to West Perth Village:

- Customer Service;
- Information and Communications; and
- Employment

This multi-year plan outlines West Perth Village’s strategy to prevent and remove barriers to address the requirements of the AODA, and in order to fulfill our commitment as outlined in West Perth Village’s accessibility policies.

In accordance with the requirements set out in the IASR, West Perth Village will:

- Post this plan on its website (<http://www.westperthvillage.ca>);
- Provide this plan in an accessible format, upon request; and
- Review and update this plan at least once every five years

Overview

- Accessibility Standards for Customer Service
- Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations
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 4. Information and Communication Standards
 - Feedback, Accessible Formats and Communication Supports
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 - Recruitment
 - Informing Employees of Supports
 - Documented Individual Accommodation Plans/Return to Work Process
 - Performance Management, Career Development and Redeployment

Accessibility Standards for Customer Service

Commitment:

The Accessibility Standards for the Customer Service Regulation were created to establish accessibility standards for customer service in Ontario. In keeping with this regulation, the organization is committed to providing respectful services that focus on the unique needs of the individual.

Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation

1. Emergency Procedure, Plans or Public Safety Information

Commitment:

West Perth Village is committed to complying with the provisions of the AODA in respect of this requirement, with the objective of making our company premises safer for persons with disabilities during emergency circumstances.

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2012:

- Emergency procedures, plans and public safety information that are prepared by West Perth Village and made available to the public, will be made available in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports, as soon as practicable, upon request.

Required compliance date: January 1, 2012

Status: Completed

2. Workplace Emergency Response Information

Commitment:

Where West Perth Village is aware that an employee has a disability and that there is a need for accommodation, individualized workplace emergency response information will be provided to the employee as soon as practicable.

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2012:

- Where the organization becomes aware of the need to accommodate an employee's disability, and if the employee's disability is such that the individualized emergency response information is necessary, West Perth Village will provide individualized workplace emergency response information to the employee with the disability as soon as practicable after it becomes aware of the need.
- If an employee who receives individualized workplace emergency response information requires assistance, with the employee's consent, West Perth Village will provide the workplace

emergency response information to the person designated by the organization to provide assistance to the employee.

- West Perth Village will review the individualized workplace emergency response information when:
 - The employee moves to a different department in the organization
 - The employee's overall accommodations needs or plans are reviewed; and/or
 - West Perth Village reviews its general emergency response policies

Required compliance date: January 1, 2012

Status: Completed

3. Training

Commitment:

West Perth Village is committed to implementing a process to ensure that all employees, volunteers, and all other persons who provide goods, services and facilities on West Perth Village's behalf, and persons participating in the development and approval of West Perth Village's policies, are provided with appropriate training on the requirements of the IASR and on the Ontario Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities, and are provided with such training as soon as practicable.

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2015:

- Determine and ensure that appropriate training on the requirements of the IASR and on the Ontario Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities, is provided to all employees, volunteers, third-party contractors who provide goods, services and facilities on West Perth Village's behalf, and persons participating in the development and approval of the West Perth Village's policies;
- Ensure that the training is provided to persons referenced above upon hire and annually thereafter;
- Keep and maintain a record of the training provided, including the dates that the training was provided and the number of individuals to whom it was provided;
- Ensure that training is provided on any changes to the prescribed policies on an ongoing basis

Required compliance date: January 1, 2015

Status: Completed

4. Information and Communication Standards

Commitment:

West Perth Village is committed to complying with the provisions of the AODA in respect of this requirement, with the objective of making applicable company information and communications accessible to persons with disabilities.

(i) Feedback, Accessible Formats and Communication Supports

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2015:

- Ensure that feedback processes are accessible to persons with disabilities by providing or arranging for the provision of accessible formats and communications supports, upon request. The organization will notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports;
- Except as otherwise provided for under the IASR, provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports upon request for persons with disabilities in a timely manner that takes into account the person's accessibility needs;
- Consult with the person making the request in determining the suitability of an accessible format or communication support;
- Notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports.

Required compliance date: January 1, 2015- Feedback related provisions, January 1, 2016- Accessible formats and communication supports related

Status: Completed

(ii) Accessible Websites and Web Content

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2021:

In accordance with the IASR, West Perth Village will ensure that West Perth Village's public websites and online content conform with the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, Level A (new websites and online content) by January 1, 2014, to Level AA for all content by January 1, 2021.

Required compliance date: January 1, 2014- WCAG 2.0 Level A- new Internet websites and web content, January 1, 2021- WCG 2.0 Level AA- all internet websites and web content, except for exclusions set out in the IASR.

Status: Completed

5. Employment Standards

(i) Recruitment

Commitment:

West Perth Village is committed to complying with the provisions of the AODA in respect of this requirement, with the objective of making the recruitment process accessible to persons with disabilities.

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2016:

Recruitment General

West Perth Village will notify employees and the public of the availability of accommodation for applicants with disabilities in the recruitment process. This will include:

- A review and, as necessary, modification of existing recruitment policies, procedures, processes and templates;
- Specifying that accommodation is available for applicants with disabilities, on West Perth Village's website and on job postings.

Recruitment, Assessment and Selection

West Perth Village will notify job applicants, when they are individually selected to participate in an assessment or selection process that accommodations are available upon request in relation to the materials or processes to be used in the assessment/selection process. This will include:

- A review and, as necessary, modification of existing recruitment policies, procedures, processes and templates
- Inclusion of availability of accommodation notice as part of the script in the scheduling of an interview and/or assessment;
- If a selected applicant requests an accommodation, consult with the applicant and arrange for provision of a suitable accommodations in a manner that takes into account the applicant's accessibility needs.

Notice to Successful Applicants

When making offers of employment, West Perth Village will notify the successful applicant of its policies for accommodating employees with disabilities. This will include:

- A review and, as necessary, modification of existing recruitment policies, procedures, processes and templates;
- Inclusion of notification of West Perth Village's policies on accommodation employees with disabilities in offer of employment letters.

Required compliance date: January 1, 2016

Status: Completed

(ii) Employee Supports

Commitment:

West Perth Village is committed to complying with the provisions of the AODA in respect of this requirement, with the objective of informing employees of available accessibility supports.

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2016:

In accordance with the IASR, West Perth Village will:

- Inform its employees of its policies used to support its employees with disabilities, including, but not limited to, policies on the provision of job accommodations that take into account an employee's accessibility needs due to disability;

- Provide the information required to new employees as soon as practicable after they begin their employment;
- Provide updated information to its employees whenever there is a change to existing policies on the provision of job accommodations that take into account an employee's accessibility needs due to disability;
- Provide updated information to its employees whenever there is a change to existing policies on the provision of job accommodations that take into account an employee's accessibility needs due to disability;
- Where an employee with a disability requests it, consult with the employee to provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports for:
 - Information that is needed in order to perform the employee's job; and
 - Information that is generally available to employees in the workplace;
 - West Perth Village will consult with the employee making the request in determining the suitability of an accessible format or communication support

Required compliance date: January 1, 2016

Status: Completed

(iii) Documented Individual Accommodation Plans/Return to Work Process

Commitment:

West Perth Village is committed to complying with the provisions of the AODA in respect of this requirement, with the objective of improving accommodation and return to work processes in the workplace.

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2016:

West Perth Village's existing policies will be reviewed to include processes that West Perth Village will follow to accommodate an employee with a disability and to facilitate an employee's return to work after absenteeism due to disability.

West Perth Village will review and assess the existing policies to ensure that they include a process for the development of documented individual accommodation plans for employees with a disability, if such plans are required.

West Perth Village will ensure that the process for the development of documented individual accommodation plans includes the following elements:

- The manner in which an employee requesting accommodation can participate in the development of the individual accommodation plan;
- The means by which the employee is assessed on an individual basis;
- The manner in which West Perth Village can request an evaluation by an outside medical or other expert, at West Perth Village's expense, to assist West Perth village in determining if the accommodation can be achieved and, if so, how accommodation can be achieved;

- The manner in which the employee can request the participation of a representative from their bargaining agent, where the employee is represented by a bargaining agent, or other representative from the workplace, where the employee is not represented by a bargaining agent, in the development of the accommodation plan;
- The steps taken to protect the privacy of the employee's personal information;
- The frequency with which the individual accommodation plan will be reviewed and updated and the manner in which it will be done;
- If an individual accommodation plan is denied, the manner in which the reasons for the denial will be provided to the employee;
- The means of providing the individual accommodation plan in a format that takes into account the employee's accessibility needs due to disability.

Individual accommodation plans will:

- If requested, include any information regarding accessible formats and communications supports provided, as required in the Standard;
- If required, include individualized workplace emergency response information, as required in the Standard; and
- Identify any other accommodation that is to be provided.

West Perth Village will ensure that the return to work process as set out in its existing policies outlines the steps West Perth Village will take to facilitate the employee's return to work after a disability-related absence, outlines the development of a written individualized return to work plan for such employees, and requires the use of individual accommodation plans, as discussed above, in the return to work process.

Required compliance date: January 1, 2016

Status: Completed

(iv) Performance, Management, Career Development and Redeployment

Commitment:

West Perth Village will take into account the accessibility needs of employees with disabilities, as well as individual accommodation plans:

- When using its performance management process in respect of employees with disabilities;
- When providing career development and advancement to its employees with disabilities;
- When redeploying employees with disabilities

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village effective January 1, 2016:

In accordance with the IASR, West Perth Village will:

- Review, assess and, as necessary, modify existing policies, procedures, practices and templates to ensure compliance with the IASR;

- Take the accessibility needs of employees with disabilities and, as applicable, their individualized accommodation plans, into account when:
 - Assessing performance
 - Managing career development and advancement
 - Redeployment is required

Required compliance date: January 1, 2016

Status: Completed

6. Design of Public Spaces

Commitment:

West Perth Village will provide two types of accessible parking spaces for use by persons with disabilities.

Action Taken:

The following measures were implemented by West Perth Village in November 2024:

- Cracked, uneven asphalt was removed from the entire parking lot
- The area for parking was leveled and proper drainage implemented
- New asphalt was laid over the entire parking lot area
- Fresh lines were painted delineating accessible parking spaces
- Four spaces were designated as accessible parking spaces. These spaces are the closest to the sidewalk leading to the main entrance

Required compliance date: November 2023

Status: In Progress- Access aisles were not painted in the accessible parking spaces. This will be completed in spring 2024.

Revised January, 2024