

Accessibility Solutions for Heritage Buildings

OHC 2022: Heritage Security and Accessibility

Presented by:

Thea Kurdi, President
Accessibility &
Universal Design Specialist
at Design**ABLE** Environments

June 2022



Who am I?

Thea Kurdi

1. Affiliate member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)
2. IAAP Level 2 Certified Accessible Built Environment Professional (CPABE)
3. Board member of the Universal Design Network of Canada
4. President of Design**ABLE** Environments

www.designable.ca | @tkurdi

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Who are we?

1. Canada's leading accessibility and universal design consultants
2. Staff have architectural & design backgrounds
3. Services:
 - a) Drawing reviews
 - b) Accessibility Standards
 - c) Research and Education

Accessibility is the only thing we do

Design**ABLE** Environments Inc.
www.designable.ca

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Agenda

- 1. Understanding the Law**
- 2. What is Disability?**
- 3. Examples of Accessible Design**
- 4. Built Environment Resources**

Canadian Laws

In 1982, 2 laws passed

1. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
2. Human Rights Code amendments

Both laws ban discrimination because of disability



Law Hierarchy



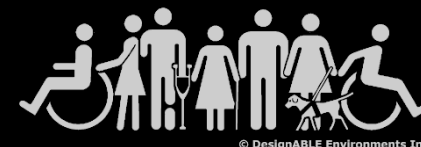


An Introduction to the Ontario Human Rights Code Duty to Accommodate People with Disabilities"

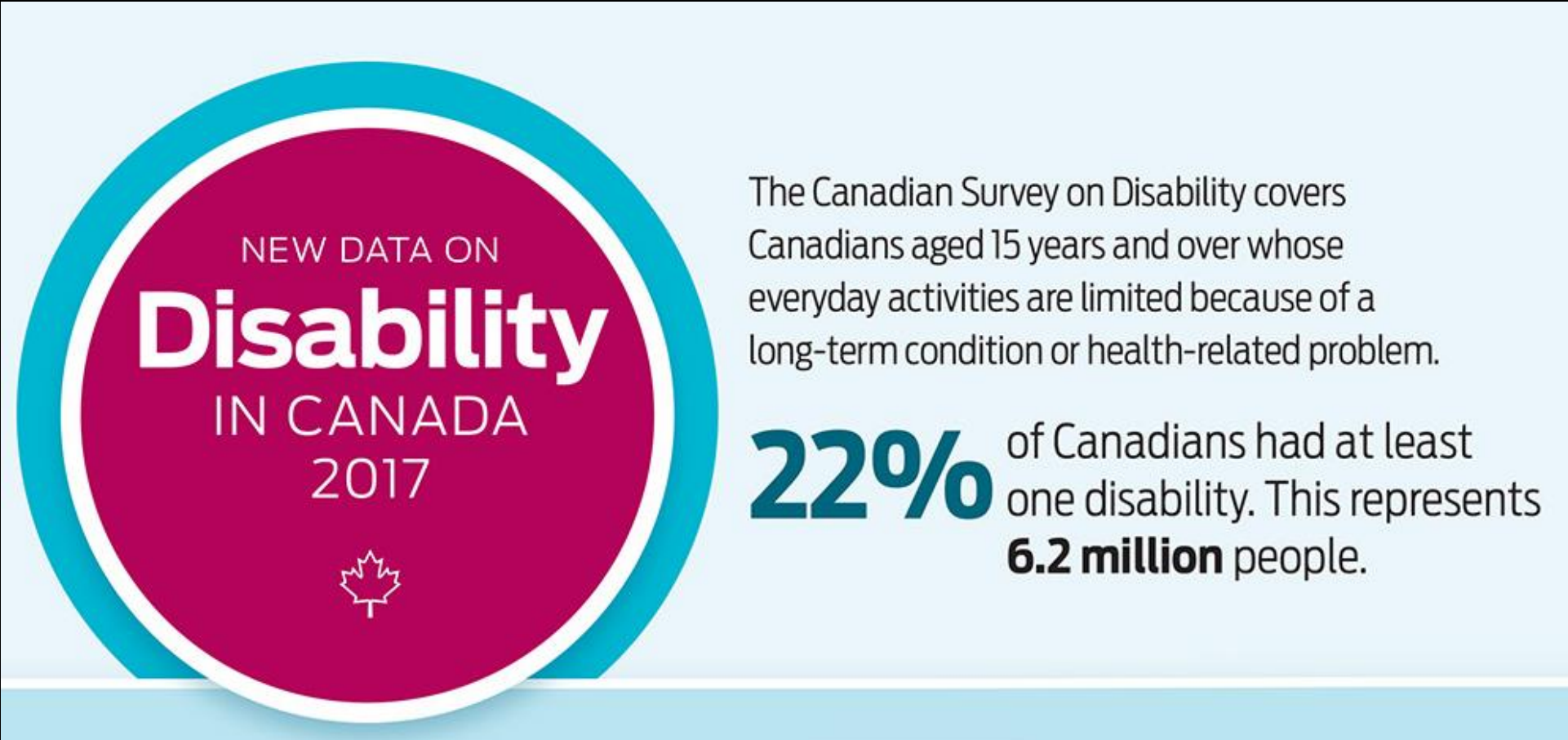
From David Lepofsky, former Ontario Crown Attorney

The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y32XvjWmDAQ>

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Understanding the Statistics





2040 DUE

ACCESSIBLE CANADA ACT

VISION PROACTIVELY ELIMINATE AND PREVENT BARRIERS AND ENSURE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

GOALS OF THE ACCESSIBLE CANADA ACT

- Realization of a barrier-free Canada
- Culture change
- Standards development
- Proactive compliance and enforcement measures
- Monitoring and oversight



WHERE DOES IT APPLY?



PARLIAMENT

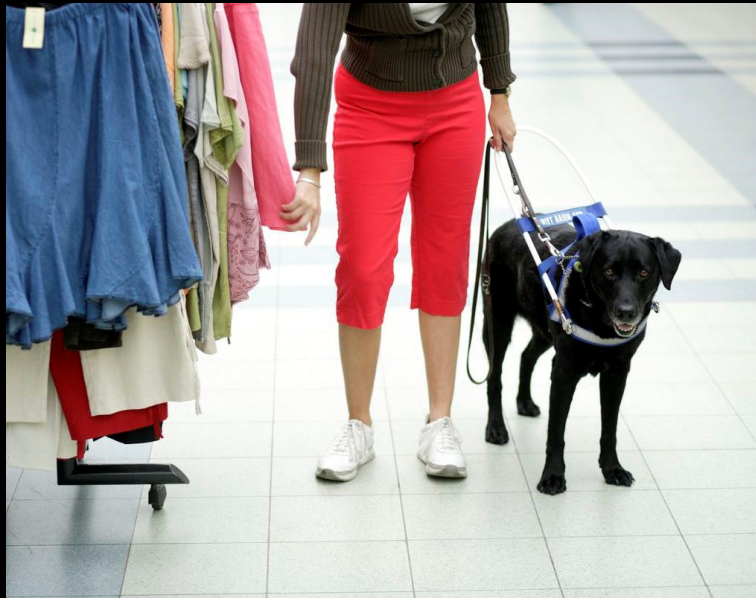


FEDERALLY-REGULATED
PRIVATE SECTOR




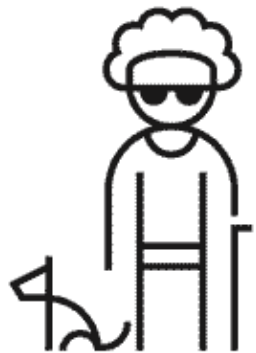










GOVERNMENT
OF CANADA

“NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US”: the Accessible Canada Act will be implemented in partnership with persons with disabilities and the disability community.

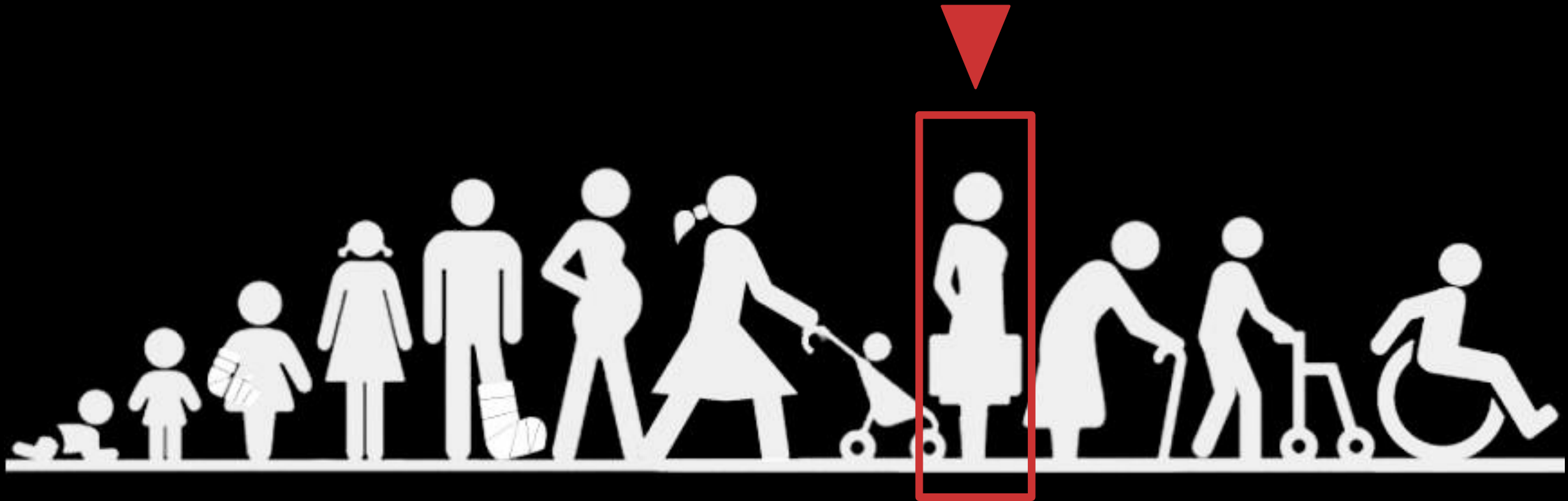


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	Permanent	Temporary	Situational
Touch			
	One arm	Arm injury	New parent
See			
	Blind	Cataract	Distracted driver

	Permanent	Temporary	Situational
Hear			
	Deaf	Ear infection	Bartender
Speak			
	Non-verbal	Laryngitis	Heavy accent

Who are we designing for?



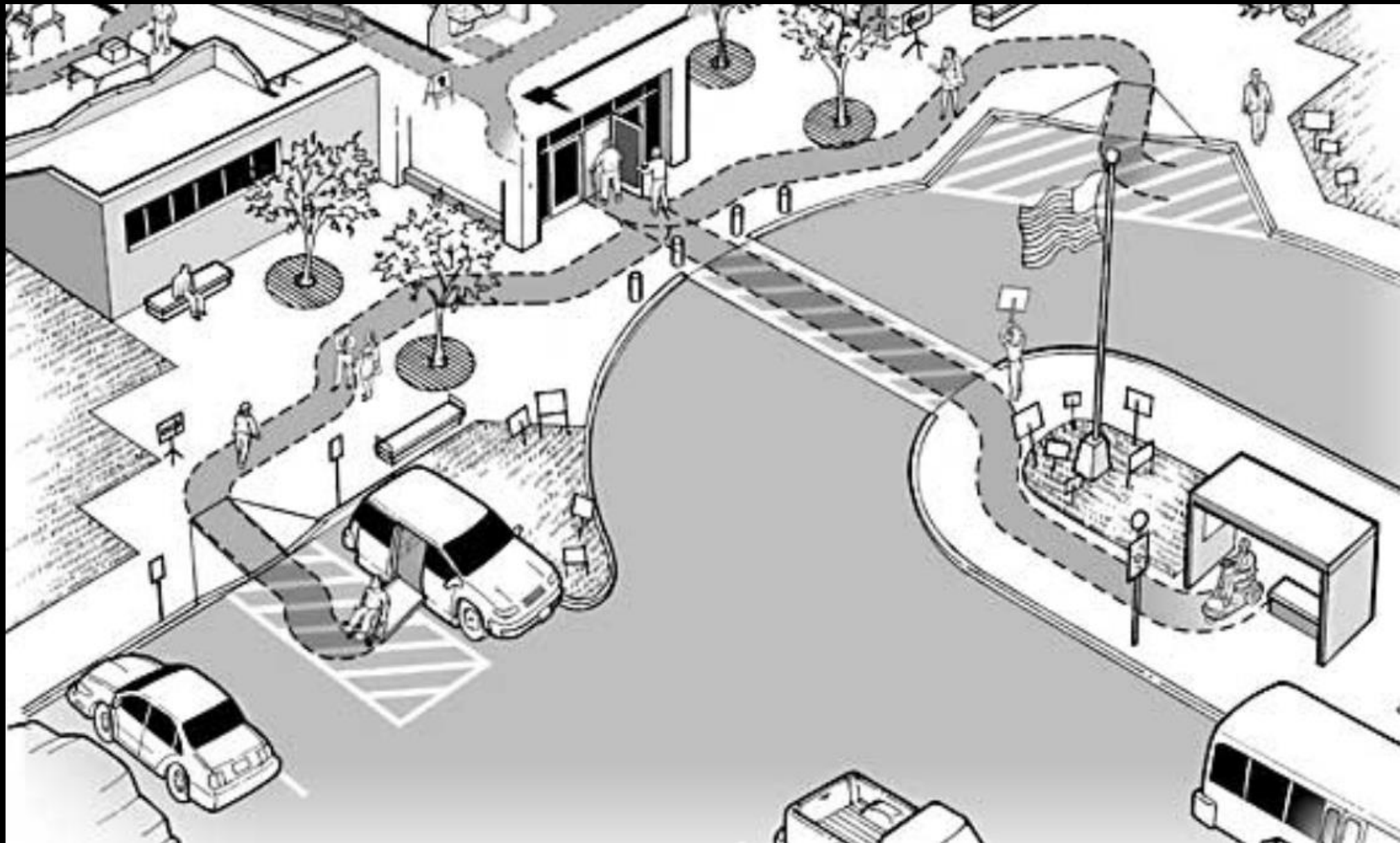
Rookie mistake...
to design for “non-disabled” only

Historical Preservation

Life Cycle Costing

1. Important economic analysis
2. Used in the selection of alternatives that impact both pending and future costs
3. Compares initial investment options
4. Identifies the least cost alternatives for a 20-year period









Stratford Heritage Examples

3 Accessible Case Studies

1. The Bradshaw Building – 245 Downie St.

Exterior lift, New interior elevators to access all levels, Barrier-free washrooms on the lower and main levels, and Automated door openers (interior and exterior)

2. Famme & Co. – 131 Ontario St.

Removal of the single-step front entrance, installation of a street-level entrance, barrier-free path of travel for customers and employees to 1st floor with interior ramp, and Automated door openers on both exterior and interior doors

3. City Hall – 1 Wellington Street (1899)

Added alternative barrier-free entrance with automated door openers, Accessible washroom, and an Elevator to provide access to the upper floors

No cost/low cost **accessibility**?

1. Even exterior lighting that's at least 50 lux
2. Even interior lighting that is at least 100 - 200 lux
3. Mounted shelving and controls that are within reach of someone in a seated position
4. Clear accessible signage with pictograms, large-print text and braille
5. Assistive listening at service counters
6. Quiet operating hours with low volume music and limited distractions

New(er) **accessibility** ideas

1. EV parking?
2. Weather protection (rain, snow, sun, heat)?
3. Winter maintenance? (AODA)
4. During construction?
5. Inclusive art and interactive elements?
6. Larger assistive equipment? (scooters)
7. Staff accessibility?
8. Ventilation? (Wellness and COVID)

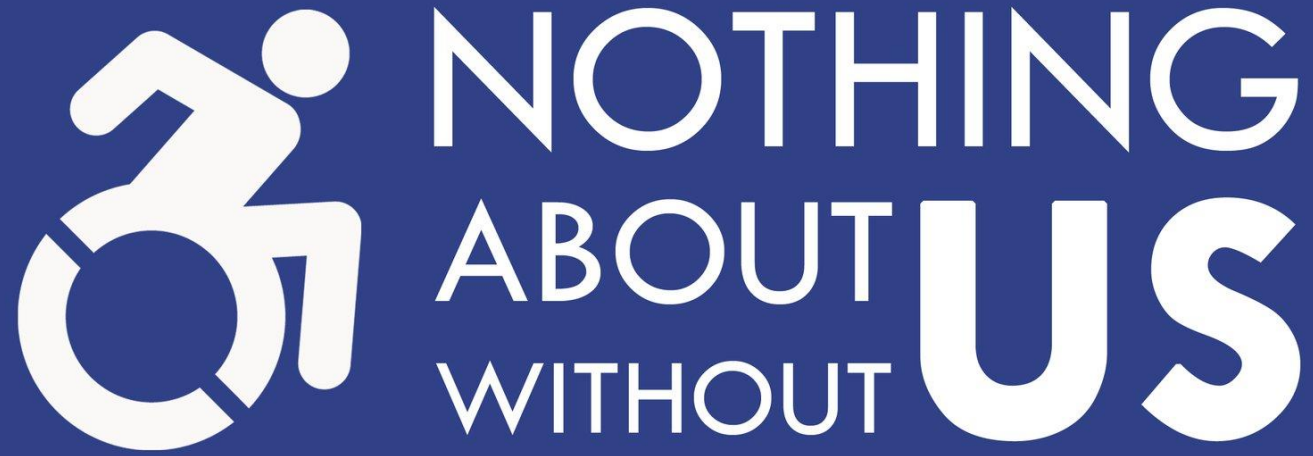


Kelsie Acton

@KelsieActon

I think the thing non-disabled people don't get is that it's never just one time or one thing. The hard part of inaccessibility is crushing unrelentingness of it

11:08 a.m. · 25 Nov. 20 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



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Built Environment Resources

1. **AODA Design of Public Spaces**

Illustrated Technical Guide to the Design of Public Spaces

<http://gaates.org/DOPS/loc.php>

2. **Ontario Historical Society – Accessible Heritage Toolkit**

<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/accessible-heritage/>

3. **CNIB Clearing Our Path**

http://www.clearingourpath.ca/8.0.0-design-needs_e.php

4. **City of Aurora Facility Accessibility Design Standards**

<https://www.aurora.ca/en/town-services/town-of-aurora-accessibility-design-standards.aspx>

5. **Stratford Tours of Historic Buildings with Accessibility Features**

<https://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/news/local-news/stratford-highlights-intersection-of-heritage-and-accessibility-through-national-accessibility-week-video-series>



Gregory Mansfield

@GHMansfield



Nondisabled people, business and government don't provide access for disabled people.

They control it.

This exclusionary control of access is isolating, discriminatory and traumatic.

1:07 p.m. · 08 Jul. 21 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

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Thank You!



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