

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Accessibility Training
- Automatic External Defibrillators
- Evacuation Chairs

# A Dufferin-Peel ACCESS

**Newsletter** Spring 2013

## UPDATE: Accessibility Training

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act was passed in 2005. The first accessibility standard created was the Customer Service Standard which came into effect on January 1, 2008. Training was delivered to all Dufferin-Peel employees in 2010.

The four new standards recently released are the Employment Standard, Information & Communication Standard, Transportation Standard, and Built Environment Standard. Training has started with the CUPE 2026 employees and by the end of May CUPE 1483 employees will have been trained. Training will continue into the next school year throughout the Board.

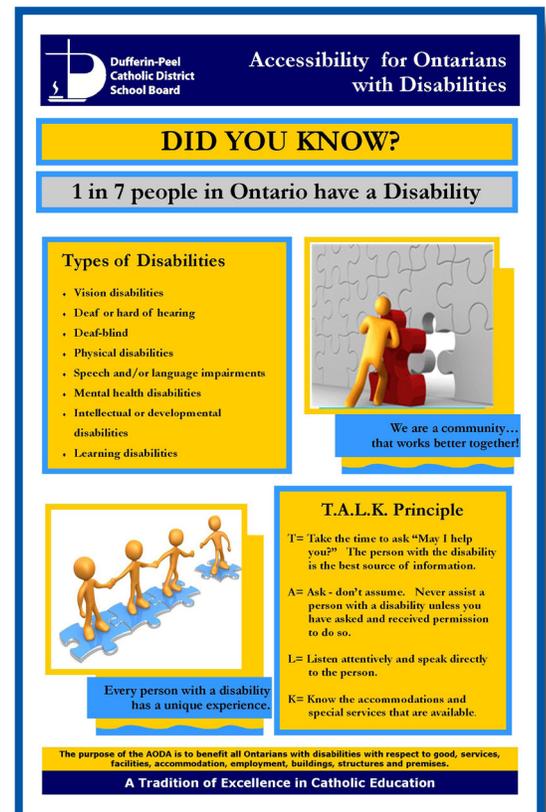
## Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)

In June 2011, the Province of Ontario announced that it would provide \$10 million to place AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) in publicly funded community sport and recreation facilities, as well as schools with high recreation and sport uses.

As a result, there was an opportunity for our schools/sites to apply for an AED under this funding which included the training of ten volunteers per application site. The funding covers the AED, related supplies, cabinet, and certification of the ten volunteers. An AED is a small, portable, easy to use device that can be used to treat a victim of cardiac arrest. It delivers a shock to the heart to resume a normal rhythm. Audible and/or visual prompts guide the user through the process.

As of April, 57 Mississauga, and the three Orangeville schools have been approved for, and had the AEDs installed and volunteers trained. The units are placed in a publicly accessible location in which after hours activities, including Permit Holders, have access. Each location has a Site Coordinator who is typically the Principal who will be key to ensuring the units are maintained and inspected regularly.

*See AED on Page 2*



**Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board** Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**1 in 7 people in Ontario have a Disability**

**Types of Disabilities**

- Vision disabilities
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Deaf-blind
- Physical disabilities
- Speech and/or language impairments
- Mental health disabilities
- Intellectual or developmental disabilities
- Learning disabilities

**We are a community... that works better together!**

**T.A.L.K. Principle**

**T**= Take the time to ask "May I help you?" The person with the disability is the best source of information.

**A**= Ask - don't assume. Never assist a person with a disability unless you have asked and received permission to do so.

**L**= Listen attentively and speak directly to the person.

**K**= Know the accommodations and special services that are available.

**Every person with a disability has a unique experience.**

The purpose of the AODA is to benefit all Ontarians with disabilities with respect to good, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises.

**A Tradition of Excellence in Catholic Education**

**AED continued from Page 1**

The Board continues to await application approvals for the Brampton and Caledon schools and is anticipating another opportunity for the remaining schools to apply.

Early defibrillation by use of an AED is part of the Heart and Stroke’s “Chain of Survival”. It increases an individual’s chance of surviving a cardiac arrest and saves lives. Legislation such as the Good Samaritan Act and the Heart Defibrillator Civil Liability Act protects users of AEDs from liability claims, this is to ensure there is no hesitation on their use during an emergency.

**Evacuation Chairs**

As outlined in the previous newsletter, changes to the Ontario Fire Code now expects that schools and board sites have a plan in place for students, staff or visitors that require assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation. Occupants requiring assistance, are no longer to be left in a “safe zone” to be attended to by Emergency Services personnel. To respond to this change, the Board purchased and installed Stryker Evacuation Chairs in schools with two stories or greater.



Further to this, the Board held evacuation chair Train the Trainer sessions for Principals/Vice Principals. The administrators subsequently provided training for volunteer staff at their schools, as well as reviewed the location and plan for the chairs with all school staff. The names of the volunteer staff that will be assisting in an evacuation are to be included in the site’s Fire Safety and Emergency Plans. These plans are reviewed with staff annually.

Included with each chair, was a DVD which can be used for awareness training with staff or refreshers for volunteers. The chairs are also imprinted with pictogram instruction on their use.

For more information about the Stryker Evacuation Chair, visit [www.ems.stryker.com/products](http://www.ems.stryker.com/products).

**The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario – On the Move**

Earlier this year, the Province of Ontario announced the transfer of the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO) from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment. Aligning the ADO with Economic Development, Trade and Employment will ensure the employment potential of those living with a disability, and further advance the economic benefits for our businesses and communities. Having the vision and objectives of a more accessible Ontario fully linked with the province’s economic development and employment agenda represents an exciting and historical new phase for the ADO and the 1.85 million Ontarians who have a disability.