

ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS



NEWSLETTER

NCDSB Accessibility Barriers Eliminated – New Accessible School Entrances

In recent years, the Accessibility Committee has asked our Principals what accessible barriers exist within their school that need addressing. The number one barrier noted has been accessible doors (entrances) not being in place or functioning. This past summer a major capital project was undertaken by our Facility Department in partnership with our Information & Communication Technology Department to redesign all school front doors. They are now all 100% accessible with automated door openers. All school entrances now have functioning accessible electronic door openers that also allow for the use of the new Salto cards (tap cards) for security reasons. *"We want to thank NCDSB for working to correct this barrier and enabling our students, staff, parents and community greater accessibility to our schools."* commented Keld Scott, Chair of the Accessibility Committee.



A barrier is anything that stops or makes it difficult for a person with a disability to take part in society, both visible and invisible barriers. The goal of AODA is to identify, remove and prevent the barriers that make life difficult for our fellow citizens with disabilities.

Canadian 2024 Paralympic Team Facts:

Canada first participated in the Paralympic Games in Rome in 1960, which was the first official Paralympic Games. The 2024 Games continue to highlight the importance of inclusivity and the remarkable abilities of athletes with disabilities, aligning with Canada's commitment to promoting accessibility and awareness through sport.

With 126 athletes competing across 18 sports, the Paris Games showcased the strength and spirit of the Canadian Paralympic Team, setting the stage for continued growth and success in Para sport. As of September 2024, the medal count for Canadian athletes at the 2024 Summer Paralympics in Paris was 29 medals (ranked 12th), reflecting Canada's strong performance across various sports.

Canadian Paralympics Medal Count (2024 Paris Games)

Gold Medals: 10
Silver Medals: 9
Bronze Medals: 10



Current NCDSB Accessibility Project:

Ensuring all schools have designated accessible parking spots located closest to their school front entrances.





CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

for **children aged 0 to 5** with **long-term conditions or disabilities**, 2023



In 2023, **62%** of children with long-term conditions or disabilities¹ **were in child care.**²



72% of parents³ of children with long-term conditions or disabilities in child care reported that **the child care arrangement used was the best fit for their child.**



35% of children with long-term conditions or disabilities in child care who were using support services or therapies⁴ were receiving **at least some of those services at their child care arrangement.**

Areas where children with long-term conditions or disabilities in child care most commonly **needed extra support**



32%

Social interaction

30%

Managing behaviour

30%

Learning

Most common difficulties experienced by children with long-term conditions or disabilities at their main child care arrangement

Participating in activities **35%**

Inadequate access or lack of access to therapeutic services within child care **29%**

Negative attitudes toward them **19%**



52% of parents of children with long-term conditions or disabilities reported **difficulty finding a child care arrangement.**

Most common impacts on parents of difficulty finding a child care arrangement



Changing their work or study schedule

40%



Working fewer hours

36%



Paying more than they wanted to

33%



Postponing their return to work

33%

1. Children may have one or more long-term condition or disability.

2. Includes use of the following: day care facilities; care provided by a relative other than a parent or guardian (e.g., a grandparent); child care provided by a non-relative in the child's home (e.g., a nanny); family child care homes or home-based child care; before- or after-school programs; or another care arrangement.

3. "Parents" refers to the parent, guardian or person who was knowledgeable about the child's care arrangements.

4. Includes autism services, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, or behavioural therapy.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey on Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements – Children with Long-term Conditions and Disabilities, 2023.