

AccessForward: Training for an Accessible Ontario

It is Possible

Introduction to the Information and Communications Standard – Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation

NARRATOR:

Consider for a moment what you've done so far today. Perhaps you browsed a newspaper on the Internet or checked your email. Maybe you attended a meeting or had a casual conversation with a colleague in the hall or through instant messaging?

So much of our world today is about information and communications...

...from chatting with your son or daughter...

...to reaching out to colleagues.

But imagine what it would be like if all of those lines of communication suddenly became blocked.

If, when surfing the Internet, some pages just don't work.

When you open up a document that you were told contains information you need, such as a bus schedule, it's unreadable.

Or what if, while in a meeting, suddenly, it's as if the sound is turned off.

If your access to information was turned off, how would you know what's going on in the world around you? How would you make decisions?

It would be like entering a world where everything appears to be the same. But rather than finding information that will allow you to participate, you find barriers....

...Always another barrier.

The good news is there are solutions to information and communication barriers, for example technology.

For people without disabilities, technology makes things convenient. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible. As long as they're set up right.

For example, if you're following web development best practices, your website may only need a few tweaks to be accessible to those with disabilities.

In addition, some accessible solutions can be as simple as reading a document out loud to someone, or providing an electronic version so they can re-size the text to suit their needs.

Making information and communications accessible is not only helpful to people with disabilities, it benefits us all. A properly formatted document or accessible website displays properly in all browsers, including personal hand-held devices.

[text on screen:] Information and Communications Standard
Outlines how organizations will be required to create, provide, and receive information and communications in ways that are accessible to people with disabilities.

The Information and Communications Standard, as covered in this module, outlines how organizations will be required to create, provide, and receive information and communications in ways that are accessible to people with disabilities.

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