

**Ontarians with Disabilities Act
Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Municipality of Central Elgin and the County of Elgin**

Application Form

This completed application form may be submitted to:

County of Elgin
Human Resources - Third Floor
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5R 5V1
Fax (519) 633-7785

OR

Municipality of Central Elgin
Chief Administrative Officer
450 Sunset Drive, North Wing
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5R 5V1
Fax (519) 631-4036

REQUIREMENTS:

- An Elector A Canadian Citizen 18 Years of Age or Older
- I am a person with a disability
 I am familiar with issues affecting persons with disabilities

PERSONAL DATA

Name: _____	
Street Address: _____	
City: _____	Postal Code: _____
Telephone Number: Home: _____	Work: _____

Why would you like to serve on the Joint Elgin/Central Elgin Accessibility Advisory Committee?

References:

Please provide a minimum of three (3) business related references

Reference Name	Relationship to Applicant	Phone Number

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I understand and agree that the County of Elgin/Municipality of Central Elgin will request information from my present/previous employers and/or academic records. I authorize my present/previous employers and/or educational institutions to release all such information as requested. I also agree that no liability or damages shall accrue to my present/previous employers or educational institutions as a consequence of their releasing such information.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

DECLARATION:

1. I understand that if accepted to participate on the Accessibility Advisory Committee, I agree to comply with the conditions of participation as outlined in the Terms of Reference.
2. I shall not disclose or use, without proper authorization, either during or subsequent to, my participation on the Elgin/Central Elgin Accessibility Advisory Committee, any private or confidential information about the Municipality of Central Elgin or the County of Elgin of which I become aware through the course of my participation on the Committee.
3. I hereby declare that all the above statements made by me are true.
4. I understand that if I have provided any false or misleading information in this application or any other document submitted in connection with my participation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee, such application may be rejected or my participation with the Committee terminated.

SCHEDULE “A”
Joint Elgin/Central Elgin 2007-2008
Annual Municipal Accessibility Plan

TYPES OF DISABILITIES AND FUNCTIONAL LIMITATIONS

A person's disability may make it physically or cognitively hard to perform everyday tasks such as operating a keyboard, reading a sign, differentiating colours, distinguishing sounds, climbing stairs, grasping small items, remembering words, or doing arithmetic.

Consider the functional limitations associated with twelve different kinds of disability and the effects of these limitations on an individual's ability to perform everyday tasks¹:

1. Physical

Physical disabilities include minor difficulties moving or co-ordinating a part of the body, muscle weakness, tremors and in extreme cases, paralysis in one or more parts of the body. Physical disabilities can be congenital, such as Muscular Dystrophy; or acquired, such as tendinitis.

Physical disabilities affect an individual's ability to:

- Perform manual tasks, such as hold a pen, grip and turn a key, type on a keyboard, click a mouse button, and twist a doorknob
- Control the speed of one's movements
- Coordinate one's movements
- Move rapidly
- Experience balance and orientation
- Move one's arms or legs fully, e.g., climb stairs
- Move around independently, e.g., walk any distance, easily get into or out of a car, stand for an extended period
- Reach, pull, push or manipulate objects
- Have strength or endurance

2. Hearing

Hearing loss include problems distinguishing certain frequencies, sounds or words, ringing in the ears and total (profound) deafness.

A person who is deaf, deafened or hard-of-hearing may be unable to use a public telephone, understand speech in noisy environments, or pronounce words clearly enough to be understood by strangers.

¹ Canadian Standards Association. *Customer Service Standard for People with Disabilities, B480-02*. Canadian Standards Association, Rexdale, ON, 2002.

3. Speech

Speech disability is a partial or total loss of the ability to speak.

Typical voice disorders include problems with:

- Pronunciation
- Pitch and loudness
- Hoarseness or breathiness
- Stuttering or slurring

People with severe speech disabilities sometimes use manual or electronic communication devices. Individuals who have never heard may have speech that is hard to understand.

4. Vision

Vision disabilities range from slightly reduced visual acuity to total blindness. A person with reduced visual acuity may have trouble reading street signs, recognizing faces, or judging distances. They might find it difficult to manoeuvre, especially in an unfamiliar place.

He or she may have a very narrow field of vision, be unable to differentiate colours, have difficulties navigating or seeing at night, or require bright lights to read. Most people who are legally blind have some vision.

5. Deaf-blind

Deaf-blindness is a combination of hearing and vision loss. It results in significant difficulties accessing information and performing activities of daily living. Deaf-blind disabilities interfere with communication, learning, orientation and mobility.

Individuals who are deaf-blind communicate using various sign language systems, Braille, standard PCs equipped with Braille displays, telephone devices for the deaf-blind and communication boards. They navigate with the aid of white canes, service animals, and electronic navigation devices.

People who are deaf-blind may rely on the services of an Intervener. Interveners relay and facilitate auditory and visual information and act as sighted guides. Interveners are skilled in the communication systems used by people who are deaf-blind, including sign language and Braille.

6. Smell

Smell disability is the inability to sense, or a hypersensitivity to odours and smells.

A person with a smelling disability may have allergies to certain odours, scents or chemicals or may be unable to identify dangerous gases, smoke, fumes and spoiled food.

7. Taste

Taste disability limits the ability to experience the four primary taste sensations: sweetness, bitterness, saltiness and sourness.

A person with a taste disability may be unable to identify ingredients in food, spoiled food, or noxious substances.

8. Touch

Touch disability alters the ability to sense surfaces and their texture or quality, including temperature, vibration and pressure. Touching sensations may be heightened, limited, absent (numbness), or may cause pain or burning.

A person with a touch disability may be unable to detect (or be insensitive to) heat, cold or changing temperatures. Alternatively, a person with a touch disability may be hypersensitive to sound, physical vibrations, or heated surfaces or air.

9. Intellectual

An intellectual disability affects an individual's ability to think and reason. The disability may be caused by genetic factors (e.g., Downs Syndrome), exposure to environmental toxins (as in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome), brain trauma and psychiatric conditions.

A person with an intellectual disability may have difficulty with:

- Language: understanding and using spoken or written information
- Concepts: understanding cause and effect
- Perception: taking in and responding to sensory information
- Memory: retrieving and recognizing information from short- or long-term memory
- Recognizing problems, problem solving and reasoning

10. Mental Health

There are three main kinds of mental health disabilities:

- Anxiety: a state of heightened nervousness or fear related to stress
- Mood: sadness or depression
- Behavioural: being disorganized; making false statements or inappropriate comments; telling distorted or exaggerated stories

People with mental health disabilities may seem edgy or irritated; act aggressively; exhibit blunt behaviour; be perceived as being pushy or abrupt; start laughing or get angry for no apparent reason.

11. Learning

Learning disabilities are disorders that affect verbal and non-verbal information acquisition, retention, understanding, processing, organization and use.

People with learning disabilities have average or above-average intelligence, but take in information, retain it, and express knowledge in different ways. Learning disabilities affect reading comprehension and speed; spelling; the mechanics of writing; manual dexterity; math computation; problem solving; processing speed; the ability to organize space and manage time; and orientation, directions and wayfinding.

12. Other

Disabilities result from other conditions, accidents, illnesses, and diseases, including ALS (Lou Gehrig disease), asthma, diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, environmental sensitivities, seizure disorders, heart disease, stroke, and joint replacement.