

1.0 PURPOSE

The following policy has been established by Advanced Rehabilitation Centres (ARC) to govern the provision of services with Regulation 191/11, "Integrated Accessibility Standards" ("Regulation") under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

These standards are developed to break down barriers and increase accessibility for persons with disabilities in the areas of information and communications and employment.

ARC is governed by this policy as well as the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* in meeting the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities.

2.0 COMMITMENT

ARC is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of persons with disabilities in a timely manner, and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

This policy will be implemented in accordance with the time frames established by the Regulation.

3.0 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

ARC will develop, maintain and document an Accessibility Plan outlining the company's strategy to prevent and remove barriers from its workplace and to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The Accessibility Plan will be reviewed and updated at least once every five years, and will be posted on the company's website. Upon request, ARC will provide a copy of the Accessibility Plan in an accessible format.

3.1 Self-Service Kiosks

ARC will have consideration for accessibility when designing, procuring or acquiring self-serve kiosks to better serve persons with disabilities.

3.2 Training Team Members and Volunteers

ARC will ensure that training is provided on the requirements of the accessibility standards referred to in the Regulation and continue to provide training on the *Human Rights Code* as it pertains to persons with disabilities, to:

- all its team members and volunteers;
- all persons who participate in developing ARC's policies; and,
- all other persons who provide goods, services or facilities on behalf of the company

The training will be appropriate to the duties of the team members, volunteers and other persons.

Team members will be trained when changes are made to the accessibility policy. New team members will be trained at orientation.

ARC will keep a record of the training it provides.

4.0 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS

4.1 Feedback

ARC will continue to ensure that its process for receiving and responding to feedback is accessible to persons with disabilities by providing, or arranging for the provision of, accessible formats and communications supports, upon request.

4.2 Accessible Formats and Communication Supports

Upon request, ARC will provide, or will arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities in a timely manner that takes into account the person's accessibility needs due to disability.

ARC will consult with the person making the request in determining the suitability of an accessible format or communication support.

ARC will also notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports.

4.3 Accessible Websites and Web Content

ARC will ensure that our Internet websites, including web content, conform to the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, at Level AA except where this is impracticable.

5.0 EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

5.1 Recruitment

ARC will notify its team members and the public about the availability of accommodation for applicants with disabilities in its recruitment process.

5.2 Recruitment, Assessment or Selection Process

ARC will notify job applicants, when they are individually selected to participate further in an assessment or selection process that accommodations are available upon request in relation to the materials or processes to be used.

If a selected applicant requests an accommodation, ARC will consult with the applicant and provide, or arrange for the provision of, a suitable accommodation in a manner that takes into account the applicant's accessibility needs due to disability.

5.3 Notice to Successful Applicants

When making offers of employment, ARC will notify the successful applicant of its policies for accommodating team members with disabilities.

5.3 Informing Team Members of Supports

ARC will continue to inform its team members of its policies (and any updates to those policies) used to support team members with disabilities, including policies on the provision of job accommodations that take into account a team member's accessibility needs due to disability. This information will be provided to new team members as soon as practicable after commencing employment.

5.4 Accessible Formats and Communication Supports for Team Members

Upon the request of a team member with a disability, ARC will consult with the team member to provide, or arrange for the provision of, accessible formats and communication supports for information that is needed to perform his/her job, and information that is generally available to other team members.

In determining the suitability of an accessible format or communication support, ARC will consult with the team member making the request.

5.5 Workplace Emergency Response Information

ARC will provide individualized workplace emergency response information to team members who have a disability, if the disability is such that the individualized information is necessary, and if ARC is aware of the need for accommodation due to the team member's disability. ARC will provide this information as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the need for accommodation.

Where the team member requires assistance, ARC will, with the consent of the team member, provide the workplace emergency response information to the person designated by ARC to provide assistance to the team member.

ARC will review the individualized workplace emergency response information when the team member moves to a different location in the organization, when the team member's overall accommodations needs or plans are reviewed.

5.6 Documented Individual Accommodation Plans

ARC will maintain a written process for the development of documented individual accommodation plans for team members with disabilities.

If requested, information regarding accessible formats and communications supports provided will also be included in individual accommodation plans.

In addition, the plans will include individualized workplace emergency response information (where required), and will identify any other accommodation that is to be provided.

5.7 Return to Work Process

ARC maintains a documented return to work process for its team members who have been absent from work due to a disability and who require disability-related accommodations in order to return to work.

The return to work process outlines the steps ARC will take to facilitate the return to work and will include documented individual accommodation plans as part of the process.

This return to work process will not replace or override any other return to work process created by or under any other statute (i.e. *Workplace Safety Insurance Act, 1997*).

5.8 Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement & Redeployment

ARC will take into account the accessibility needs of team members with disabilities, as well as individual accommodation plans, when conducting performance management, providing career development and advancement to team members, or when redeploying team members.

6.0 QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS POLICY

This policy has been developed to break down barriers and increase accessibility for persons with disabilities in the areas of information and communications and employment. If anyone has a question about the policy, or if the purpose of a policy is not understood, an explanation will be provided by: ***Paul J. Mendonca, Manager of Operations.***