



ACCESSIBILITY

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PTP is committed to providing a barrier-free environment for all stakeholders, including clients, employees, job applicants, suppliers, and any visitors who enter the premises, work for the organization, access information provided by the organization, or use the organization's goods and services.

PTP will work to break down the barriers that prevent or limit persons with disabilities from employment, receipt of goods and services, the built environment, and information and communication through the implementation of accessibility standards.

DEFINITIONS

Accessible Formats

Include but are not limited to large print, recorded audio and electronic formats, braille, and other formats usable by persons with disabilities.

Assistive Device

A technical aid, communication device, or other instrument that is used to maintain or improve the functional abilities of people with disabilities.

Communication Supports

Captioning, alternative and augmentative communication supports, plain language, sign language, and other supports that facilitate effective communications.

Conversion-ready

An electronic or digital format that facilitates conversion into an acceptable format.

Disability

The temporary, prolonged, or permanent reduction or absence of the ability to perform certain commonplace activities or roles sometimes referred to as activities of daily living.

Service Animal

An animal that can be recognized by visual indicators such as a vest or harness that is being used by an individual with a disability for reasons relating to the person's disability.

Support Person

Another person who accompanies an individual with a disability in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care, medical needs, or access to goods and services.

EMPLOYMENT

PTP will make every effort to identify, remove, and prevent barriers by developing inclusive employment procedures that support persons with disabilities with accommodations during the recruitment and selection stages, and throughout the employment life cycle.

RECRUITMENT AND HIRING

PTP understands that improving workplace accessibility and ensuring an accessible recruitment and selection process for applicants with disabilities can expand the pool of talented candidates. Upon request, the organization will provide candidates with reasonable accommodations during the interview and selection process. Where an accommodation is requested, the organization will consult with the applicant to arrange suitable accommodations, such as providing the application in an alternate or accessible format.

The organization interview process will focus on experience and skills and will not discriminate against candidates who have a disability or require an accommodation. PTP is committed to hiring decisions that are unbiased and based on qualifications and past experience. Successful candidates will be made aware of policies and supports for accommodations upon completion of the recruitment process.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

PTP recognizes that skills development and career planning can enrich the employment experience, increase engagement, and reduce turnover for individuals with disabilities. The organization will align training and development programs to meet the needs of employees with disabilities and provide training as soon as reasonably practicable upon the person being assigned to applicable duties. Training programs will be designed with flexibility to allow customization for the individual requirements of the employee, such as providing training materials in accessible or conversion-ready formats that consider the need of the employee. The organization will consider employee barriers when implementing performance management processes, or when offering career development, employment support, or advancement opportunities.

COMMUNICATION

PTP will provide or arrange for accessible formats and communication supports for employees, upon request. The organization will consult with the employee to determine the specific barrier and the best way to provide support. Such accessible formats and communication supports are conversion-ready and will be provided in a timely manner and at no additional cost to employees.

When communicating with or providing information to an employee who requires accommodation or assistance due to a disability, the organization will ensure that all communication with the individual is completed in a manner that considers the individual's disability. Where an assistive device is used, the organization will reasonably accommodate the use of the device.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

If necessary or if requested, PTP will create individualized workplace emergency response plans for employees with disabilities. The emergency response plan will consider the unique challenges created by the individual's disability and the physical nature of the workplace and will be created in consultation with the employee. If an employee with a disability requires assistance from a support person during an emergency, the organization will designate a fellow employee to act as such.

Customized emergency response plans will be reviewed when:

- The employee moves to a different physical location in the organization;
- The employee's overall accommodation needs, or plans are reviewed; or
- The organization reviews general emergency response policies.



ACCOMODATION

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The duty to accommodate is required of all employers, in all jurisdictions in Canada, and encompasses providing respect and dignity, individualized accommodation, integration and participation, and barrier-free designs. PTP will provide individual accommodations to support the needs of employees with disabilities. Personalized accommodation plans will be designed to allow employees to contribute and participate in job related functions and activities to the best of their abilities. The process of accommodating individuals will take a consultative approach and is a shared obligation of the organization, the employee, and any applicable professionals required to assist the employee throughout the process.

Provided a person with a disability can perform the essential duties of their own job or other available work and requests accommodation in order to do so, PTP will try to accommodate the person.

Request process

If you wish to raise a potential accommodation issue, you can do so by submitting a written request for accommodation to your manager. In the request, please describe

- The condition or circumstances causing the issue
- In detail, the accommodation sought to address the need.

When necessary to facilitate the assessment and determination of the accommodation, you may be required to provide relevant medical information to PTP. You are expected to provide your fullest cooperation in providing any information or medical assessments relevant to determination of the accommodation request.

Your manager will assess the accommodation issue considering the information provided. During the assessment phase, PTP reserves the right to request further information, including relevant medical information or opinions as deemed appropriate.

PTP Management will finalize a decision regarding the accommodation, and you will be communicated the decision within a timely manner. The decision of the CEO will be final and binding on the parties.

RETURN TO WORK

PTP is committed to a supportive return-to-work program and will develop and implement return-to-work processes for employees who are absent from work due to a disability and require accommodations in order to return to work. The organization will work with the employee to develop an individualized return-to-work plan and support the employee in the transition period by addressing any barriers. The return-to-work process will outline the steps the organization will take to facilitate the employee's return to work and use documented individual accommodation plans.

REDEPLOYMENT

If an employee cannot be accommodated in their current position, even with accommodations to either the job processes or hours, where appropriate PTP may consider redeployment by placing the employee in an alternative position within the organization. PTP staff will work with the employee to determine whether there is another available position. If the accommodation requires a substantial change in the position, involving duties or hours, the position may be redesigned.

INABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE

PTP will provide workplace accommodation up to the point of undue hardship. Undue hardship may occur where it is established that no forms of appropriate accommodation exist, or where the creation of accommodation would create a health and safety hazard or cause unreasonable costs for the organization. In the case of undue hardship created by cost, outside sources of funding, if any, will be considered.

Where a necessary accommodation is found to cause undue hardship on the organization, the organization will work to find a fair and equitable compromise that meets the needs of the employee and the organization to the greatest extent possible.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Access to Goods and Services

PTP will seek to provide barrier-free access to the organization's goods and services for all customers. Where barriers cannot be removed, alternate means for accessing goods or services will be provided to the best of the organization's ability.

Support Persons and Service Animals

If a customer with a disability is accompanied by a support person, PTP will ensure that both persons may enter the premises together and that the customer is not prevented from having access to the support person. A customer with a disability accompanied by a service animal will be allowed access to premises that are open to the public unless otherwise excluded by law.

The organization will waive admission fees to support persons, or when not possible, ensure the support person is notified of admission costs in advance. The organization will attempt to accommodate the customer and support person to sit with one another. In situations where confidential information might be discussed, consent will be obtained from the customer before any potentially confidential information is mentioned in front of the support person.

Communication

PTP understands the importance of accessible digital and non-digital forms of communication and will provide accessible types of communication and information to all individuals with disabilities. Such accessible formats and communication supports will be provided upon request, in a timely manner and at no additional cost.

The organization will also meet internationally-recognized Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA website requirements in accordance with Ontario's accessibility laws.

Service Disruptions

Service disruptions may occur for reasons that may or may not be within the control or knowledge of PTP. In the event of any temporary disruptions to facilities or services that customers with disabilities rely on to access or use goods or services, reasonable efforts will be made to provide advance notice.

When disruptions occur, the organization will:

- Post notices in the nearest accessible entrance to the service disruption,
- Update the organization website with information about the disruption;
- Contact customers with reservations or appointments; or
- By any other method that may be reasonable under the circumstances.

The organization will make every reasonable effort to indicate when services will resume and suggest alternatives that can be utilized during the disruption. In some circumstances, such as in the situation of unplanned temporary disruptions or emergencies, advance notice may not be possible.

Emergency Notifications

PTP will provide emergency and public safety information, plans and procedures, maps and warning signs at evacuation points, and any other emergency alert information, in accessible formats or with appropriate communication supports, upon request.

The organization will:

- Work any individuals requesting information and to see how to best meet their needs;
- Ensure emergency information can be seen, read, and heard by anyone, including people with disabilities; and
- If a person with a disability requires assistance from a support person in case of an emergency, make sure an employee is available to act as such.

Customer Feedback

Customer feedback can lead to improved service, increased clientele, and a reduction in complaints. PTP will ensure that feedback can be provided by customers with disabilities through a variety of mechanisms, such as in person, by phone, e-mail, text message, or social media. Feedback forms, along with alternate methods of providing feedback verbally (in person or by telephone) or written (handwritten, delivered, website, or e-mail), will be available upon request.

Customers who provide formal feedback will receive acknowledgement of their feedback, along with any resulting actions based on concerns or complaints that were submitted.

Building Accessibility

PTP will work to ensure that the built environment, including building interior and exterior, are designed to facilitate barrier-free access to goods or services for customers and employees. If areas of the built environment are not accessible for certain individuals with disabilities, the organization will work with the individual to provide an alternate means of access.