# Accessible and Inclusive Event Planning Checklist

This document has been designed as a tool to help event organizers plan for accessibility and inclusion. The checklist should be reviewed at the beginning of the planning stage. Mohawk College would like to acknowledge the University of Windsor and McMaster University whose accessible events resources offered guidance for the development of this checklist.

## Picking a date

The days of significance calendar has been consulted to ensure the proposed date of the meeting/event will not conflict with observance days that could impact participation.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Accessibility budget

Ensure that funds are available early in the planning process in the event of a request for ASL/sign language interpretation, computerized note taking/real-time captioning, to have materials prepared in braille, dietary needs or any other accessibility features.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Advertising

Give sufficient notice for your upcoming event; this allows people to arrange for transportation, assistants or other supports they may require.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

On advertisements, include accessibility symbols and the duration of the event. Accessibility symbol examples:



[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Registration form

Provide space on your registration form or on the event notice for people to identify their accommodations (physical, alternate formats, etc.) or other specific needs.

A suggested accessibility statement:

“We are committed to providing equitable access to this event for all participants. If you require accommodations, alternative formats, dietary considerations or other specific needs, please contact (name of person) at (number) or via email (email address here) with your request by (deadline).”

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Include your contact information so that potential attendees can contact you with their specific, confidential requests.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Follow up in a timely manner with people who request accommodations to inform them of availability or any specific instructions/directions.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

If food is being served, give participants a chance to request dietary preferences.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Meeting/event location

Visit the proposed meeting/event location to determine the accessibility of the room and pathway to reach the room. Ensure that all meeting areas have ramps or elevators and are otherwise accessible so that people with a disability can use all areas at your event independently or with assistance from a volunteer or a support person (i.e., registration desk, auditorium, breakaway rooms, stage, accessible washrooms within a reasonable distance).

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

A couple of days before the meeting/event and on the day of the meeting/event, check the elevator and door opening devices to ensure that they are operating properly. Check for any service disruption notices before and on the day of the meeting.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Elevators should have low buttons for wheelchair users, braille/raised number markings or audible floor announcements for people with low vision, and visual floor indicators for people who are Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Meeting area is in a quiet location without background noise and/or poor acoustics.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Determine the approximate distance to nearest accessible parking from the meeting/event location.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ensure transportation options for getting to the venue are realistic for people with disabilities. Is a designated drop-off/pick-up location needed?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Make sure that the accessibility entrance is the main entrance if possible.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Alternatively, post clear signs at multiple locations showing alternative, safe and accessible entrances. Ensure the signage is in large print with strong colour contrast. Refer to the library’s [Accessible Resources: Document](https://library.mohawkcollege.ca/accessible-resources/documents)s webpage for more information.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

If a phone is available to participants, ensure that it is hearing aid compatible and/or has an amplifier. Also, a teletypewriter (TTY) should be available to participants who are Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ensure that you have a private space/room that is designated for breastfeeding and/or prayer.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Consider the proximity of your meeting/event to breastfeeding and/or prayer space.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Meeting/event room setup

Aisles between chairs should be 1.5 m or wider to allow for easy movement for wheelchair and scooter users and allow for wheelchair turning radius.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Tables for individuals using wheelchairs should be no more than 86 cm tall and no less than 72 cm above the floor, with at least 68 cm of knee space between the floor and the underside of the table. Depending on their use think about whether it is appropriate to use tablecloths which could become entangled.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Allow for plenty of space around tables. To accommodate movement around the table the areas should include a clear space of 1.50 m around all sides of the table.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Good lighting (bright, without glare and allows for adjustment); no less than 200 lux.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Stage is easily visible, with a ramp.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Leave space in the front of the room, near the primary speaking area, for sign language interpreters. Reserve seating near the interpreters for participants who are Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing and consider line of sight.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ensure spaces are left at various locations (front, middle and back) in the setup to allow dispersed seating for participants who use mobility devices.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Cover all electrical cables or cords that cross over aisles or pathways.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Reduce or eliminate background noise during proceedings.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Post clear signs showing locations of accessible washrooms, elevators and phones.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Meeting/event activities

Include specific information in the event description or message saying for example, “This event includes Kahoot or PowerPoint” so that attendees can determine if any accessibility needs will be required.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

A choice of activities that are accessible to all fitness levels, including persons with physical disabilities and different athletic and activity levels (e.g., if there is an exercise such as raising hands).

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ensure activities are planned with equal attention to the needs of all, with meaningful inclusion of underrepresented groups at all levels of the college community.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Volunteer training

Ensure that volunteers are easily identifiable. Use name tags and/or other identifiers.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Train volunteers about how to respectfully assist people with disabilities and to respond to any accessibility issues that may arise.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ensure that organizers, presenters and volunteers are aware of the emergency evacuation procedures and refuge areas.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Know the location of public telephones that are accessible (i.e., with volume control, with a TTY1, and for wheelchair users the coin slot should be 1.22 m above floor level).

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Depending on the nature of the meeting/event, you may want to offer childminding services if many of your attendees have children and the event is held during non-business hours.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

If food is provided, make sure the total count includes interpreters, note takers, attendants and childminders.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Support persons and service animals

When a participant brings a service animal, provide directions to where the animal can relieve itself and the location of the nearest water fountain for the water dish.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ensure there is seating or space far from service animals for persons with severe allergies.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Consider waiving any fees associated for a support person an individual may require to accompany them.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Accessible communication and presentations

If the room is equipped with FM transmitters, arrange for Assistive Listening Devices to be available and in working order, or include this notification of availability in your advertising.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Book American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters or computerized note takers/real-time captioning as soon as possible and at least one month in advance, if these services have been requested.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Provide interpreters and note takers with agendas and presentation outlines as far in advance as possible to assist in their effectiveness.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

At the meeting/event, ensure that the interpreters and/or captioners are introduced and explain what they will be doing during the event.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Remind presenters to end on schedule (people making transit arrangements often have very little flexibility).

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Remind presenters to make their presentations accessible (i.e., colour contrast, size, font type, etc.).

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Produce materials including presentation slides and transcripts, etc. in large print (16-point type or larger) in case of a request for such a format, and have available electronically in accessible format.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ask attendees to notify the event planner in advance if they require alternative formats or reasonable accommodations. A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment to the environment of an event that allows full participation for people with disabilities, including but is not limited to: providing wheelchair access, allowing service animals, providing sign language interpreters, offering accessible seating and providing equal access to the event. Place this information on your registration.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

For presenters, podium heights and audio-visual controls need to be adjustable to meet the needs of different speakers. Consider the best microphone type to accommodate presenters. Ask presenters about any accommodations they require.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

During the session, presenters should verbally describe contents of videos or any written materials, including overheads or chalkboard notes for those audience members with vision loss. Any digital hand-outs including electronic slides should be accessible.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Ask presenters to use captioned videos only.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

Organizers or presenters should check with the audience about the need for breaks.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments:

## Evaluating the meeting/event

Include a section about feedback on accessibility and inclusion of the meeting/event. This will provide valuable information for use in future event planning.

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  N/A

Comments: