



Main street accessibility



The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) was enacted in 2005 to ensure an accessible society for people with disabilities by 2025. What difference does it make in communities in Ontario? This question motivated a small group of citizens in Thornbury, ON to seek support of the Canadian Disability Policy Alliance (CDPA) to examine accessibility and make recommendations. During the summer of 2012, researchers from Queen's University collaborated with Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCIO) to evaluate physical accessibility and attitudes towards disability among “main street” businesses. Based on an accessibility audit of 41 business over 3 blocks, we found that more than 50% of Main Street businesses were at least minimally wheelchair accessible – about 25% were ideally accessible, and 25% had compromised accessibility.

For more information on the findings and for a link with the *Main Street Accessibility Audit* tool, [click here](#).

A vision of Canada where people with disabilities enjoy full participation and citizenship, supported by a coherent framework of legislation, regulation and programs.