

Accessibility Plan for Belvedere Heights for 2014-17

Program Background

The purpose of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, (AODA) is to “improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province” (AODA, 2005). To fulfill this purpose, Belvedere Heights will develop an annual accessibility plan in response to identified barriers.

Aim

This plan describes:

1. The measures that Belvedere Heights has taken in the past;
2. The measures Belvedere Heights will take during 2014-17 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who live, work in or use the facilities, including residents, program participants, tenants, families, staff, health care professionals, volunteers and members of the community.

Objectives

This plan:

1. Recognizes measures Belvedere Heights has taken in the past to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. Describes the process by which Belvedere Heights will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Describes the measures Belvedere Heights intends to use in 2014-17 and beyond to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describes Belvedere Heights efforts to promote accessibility in the areas of customer service, employment, information and communication, transportation, and built environment

Description of Belvedere Heights

Belvedere Heights, a 101 Bed Long Term Care Facility, located on Belvedere Avenue, in the Town of Parry Sound, overlooks Georgian Bay. The facility was rebuilt in 2003 according to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care design standards.

Belvedere Heights is operated and governed by a Board of Management for the District of West Parry Sound in co-operation with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The Home provides basic, semi private and private accommodation and varying levels of care and assistance with the activities of daily living for the seniors who reside in the Home.

Belvedere Heights oversees and manages a Seniors Community Support Program, funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, for seniors living in the community, within the West Parry Sound catchment area. The program has limited administrative staff that co-ordinate volunteer supported programs, offering a wide variety of services to the community.

Belvedere Heights also manages 24 life lease condominium like apartment units, for individuals 55 years of age and older.

Accessibility Task Force

Membership

Long Term Care Resident
Long Term Care Resident
Life Lease Tenant
Life Lease Tenant
Volunteer Coordinator
Manager Community Support Services
CEO
Accreditation Co-ordinator

Initiatives identified since 2011 to Remove Barriers and Improve Accessibility

Type of Barrier	Initiative	Year Completed
Architectural	Automatic door closure on public bathroom in main entry hallway	2011
	Removal of Stones in Landscaping and replace with platforms	2013
Environmental	Way finding signage from front entry to home areas; auditorium etc	2012
	Signage outside elevators on each floor noting the floor (i.e. lower, first/main, second)	2011
	Signage in elevators stating what is on each floor	2011
	Voice activated elevator	2011
	Hand rail for sloping sidewalk on Belvedere Heights property, near life lease units	2011
Employment	Mechanism for an assessment of needs for a staff member who is disabled	2012
Communication	Instructions for operation of public telephone in the main entry	2011
	Large key pad for the above telephone Ability to turn up volume in above telephone	2012
	Enquire from Bell Telephone's Disability Department what adaptive devices they may have that are suitable for use at Belvedere Heights	2011
	Contact CNIB for assistive devices they may have that are suitable for use at Belvedere Heights.	2011

	List of languages spoken at Belvedere Heights, and staff who can act as translators	2011
	List of persons in community who would act as translators for common language spoken in the area (confidentiality agreement to be signed by translator if conversation is of a confidential nature)	2011
	Education for Belvedere Heights staff and the Community; explore the possibility of providing a workshop in the fall of 2011 to educate the public to accessibility and disabilities people may have; contact providers such as CNIB, Hearing Society etc.	2011
	Provide a mechanism for communication of adaptive devices residents may need in dining room	2011
	Raised Stairwell Numbers for Visually Impaired	2014
	Variable Print Size on Website	2014

Review and Monitoring Process

The Accessibility Task Force shall review the status of the initiatives planned for completion, on a regular basis throughout the year.

Communication of the Plan

The plan will be communicated by the following means:

- Posted on the Accessibility Bulletin Board in Long Term Care; posted in Life Lease building
- Posted on Belvedere Heights website

A hard copy of the Accessibility Plan is available upon request, from the Administration Office.