AODA Compliance – IT Accessibility

July 19th, 2017

Presented by:

Joyce Barlow, AODA Specialist, Human Resources

Shawn Winnington-Ball, Manager, Policy and Standards, IST

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

What is AODA?

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act – 2005; goal of making Ontario fully accessible by 2025

- 5 phased-in standards to adhere to: Customer Service, Employment, Transportation, Design of Public Spaces, and Information and Communication; Health and Education standards are under development

- Standards include technical specifications and outcome-based requirements

- UWaterloo is required to file present and scripted compliance reports with the Ontario ministry every 2 years; next report is due by December 31, 2017
  - While no specific IT questions are included on this year's report, the report ends with a blanket question to confirm compliance on all other aspects of AODA

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

AODA – Information and Communication Standard

- Sec 14 (2) – Designated public sector organizations shall make their internet <u>websites and web content</u> conform with WCAG 2.0, initially at Level A (by January 1, 2014) and Level AA (by January 1, 2021)

- Sec 14 (5) – This section applies to:

    a) websites and web content, including web-based applications, that an organization controls directly or through a contractual relationship that allows for modification of the product; and,

    b) web content published on a website after January 1, 2012

UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

WCAG 2.0 Level A

- AODA compliance requires UWaterloo websites to adhere to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level A

  - Text alternatives – related to audio content, graphics, photos; captions/text for audio content; adaptable – able to present information in alternate ways without losing structure (i.e. sequencing maintained, not reliant on shapes, size, colour, etc for differentiation)

  - Operable – keyboard accessible, navigable - headers/labels, multiple ways to access webpage

  - Understandable – predictable in operation, error identification and suggestions

  - Compatible – with assistive technologies (parsing – start and end tags, elements nested according to specification, etc.)

UNIVERSITY OF **WATERLOO**

UWaterloo Websites and Web Content

Websites	Web Content
WCMS – has been designed to meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA standard	Documents, graphics, images uploaded onto web daily
Procurement – standard language in RFP documents requiring vendors to confirm that they meet standard	Videos/synchronized media created daily
Social media/multimedia sites – Twitter, YouTube channel, etc.	Other websites/web content "owned" by UWaterloo but decentralized in management/creation

UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Initial Approach

- Environmental scan of centrally managed content by IST (with support from the AODA Specialist) to understand:

  - Number and ownership of "websites", "web applications" and amount of "web content" that is centrally managed (since 2012)

  - Processes in place to implement WCAG 2.0 Level A requirements

  - General understanding of level of risk with non-compliance with AODA

  - Opportunities for improvement

- Liam Morland to perform website/content assessments against the prioritized list

UNIVERSITY OF **WATERLOO**

Scope

- Ongoing focus will be websites the University can reasonably control and manage

  - "Information that the obligated organization does not control directly or indirectly through a contractual relationship" (section 9.2.3) is EXEMPT from AODA requirements.

  - Under AODA, Federated and Affiliated University Colleges are independent entities from UWaterloo

- Multi-year Accessibility Plan

  - Portion of the publicly available Plan (anticipated for 2018-2022) will focus on UWaterloo's strategy to create accessible information and communication over the next 5 years

  - Annual status reports will also be generated and posted publicly

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Deliverables

- Report on environmental scan outcomes will be presented to CIO

- Receive CIO input and feedback on risk tolerance and strategy to manage areas of non-compliance (for filing in 2017)

- Relevant content will be extrapolated and included in the overall AODA compliance report. Preparation of report will be completed by AODA Specialist; final sign-off and submission will be completed by Marilyn Thompson, APHR

- The completed and filed accessibility report will be made available to the public

UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

QUESTIONS