



Serving with Dignity

1. Leading with Heart: We Serve, Barrier-Free

As Lions, our motto is "We Serve". In 2026, that service must be inclusive. While our clubs are powered 100% by volunteers and are exempt from formal government reporting, our commitment to removing barriers is a core Lion Value. We don't make our events accessible because we have to—we do it because we want everyone in our community to belong.

2. Putting Values into Action: Human Rights Training

Our service is guided by the belief that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity. In Ontario, this is a legal right under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Even as a volunteer-powered clubs, we have a "Duty to Accommodate" our neighbors with disabilities to the point of "undue hardship".

To uphold our values, we recommend that all members take the easy step of watching the "Working Together" training videos:

- The Training: [Working Together: The Code and the AODA](#).

- What it Covers: How the Human Rights Code and the AODA protect the rights of people with disabilities.
- Our Goal: We aim for 100% participation to ensure every Lion is an ambassador for inclusion.
- Club Coordination: We recommend maintaining a checklist of members at the local club level and submitting updates to the Accessibility Chairperson once completed.
- Group Option: Clubs can screen these 20-minute modules at general meetings to train together as a team!

3. Resources for Inclusive Excellence

The MDA website offers excellent resources to help you evaluate your club's accessibility:

- Club Self-Evaluation: Use their official form to see where your club can improve access.
- Visit: mdalions.org/mda_web/Accessibility.html.

4. Event Day "Golden Rules"

- Ask First: Always ask, "How can I best assist you?" and never start helping without permission.
- Speak Directly: Maintain eye contact with the person, not their support worker or interpreter.
- Mic Check: Always use a microphone. Even in small rooms, this is essential for guests using hearing aids.
- Clear Paths: Keep at least 3 feet of clear space between tables for scooters and wheelchairs.

Dates to Remember

- March 26: Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness.
- March 27-29: District A-2 Convention (St. Catharines).
- May 2026: Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides—Register your team today!