Plank

AODA Website Compliance Checklist

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AODA and the Internet checklist

The second accessibility standard "Information and Communications" is what to focus on when it comes to your digital presence.

We've created this easy checklist to help you make sure your website is compliant:

General Requirements

- ☐ Website conforms to WCAG 2.0 Level AA (excluding live captioning and audio descriptions)
- ☐ Applies to all new or significantly updated content created after January 1, 2012
- ☐ Accessibility is built into your design and development process

Content & Structure

- ☐ Headings are used properly and follow a clear hierarchy (H1, H2, H3, etc.)
- ☐ Text is easy to read (good font size, spacing, and contrast)
- ☐ Links have clear, descriptive text (no "click here")
- ☐ Important images have alt text that describes their purpose
- ☐ Video content includes captions
- ☐ Audio content includes transcripts

Visual Design

- ☐ Text and background colours meet contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1
- ☐ Colour is not the only way information is conveyed (e.g. not just "green for yes")
- ☐ Pages are readable without needing to zoom or scroll horizontally on mobile

Navigation & Interaction

- ☐ All interactive elements (menus, buttons, forms) can be used with a keyboard alone
- ☐ Page has a clear, consistent layout across the site
- ☐ Users can easily skip to main content (e.g. skip links)
- ☐ Forms have descriptive labels and error messages

Technical Setup

- ☐ Site uses semantic HTML and proper ARIA roles (if needed)
- ☐ Images are not used to present text (unless decorative or part of branding)
- ☐ Language of the page is identified (e.g. <html lang="en">)
- ☐ Site works well with screen readers and assistive technologies

Documents & Downloads

- ☐ PDFs and other downloadable files are accessible (or available in alternative formats)
- ☐ Provide accessible alternatives on request

Feedback & Support

- ☐ A clear method is available for users to request accessible formats or give accessibility feedback
- ☐ Staff responsible for digital content are trained in accessibility best practices
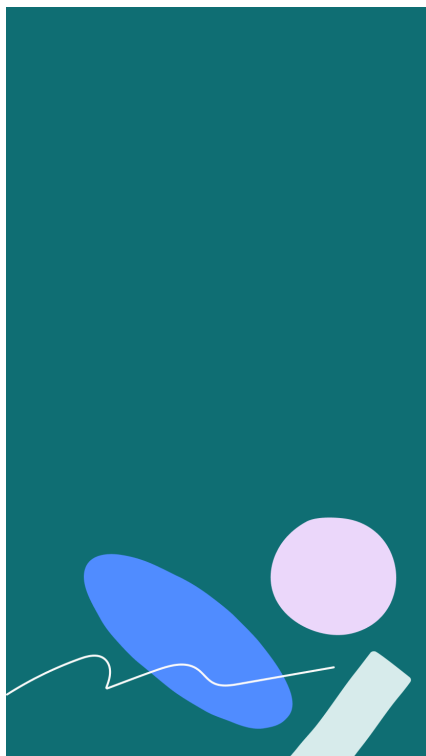
Plank and AODA

Here at Plank we want to make sure accessibility isn't an afterthought, in Ontario, and everywhere else.

To this end, we created the Ethical Website Collective - a commitment to building websites that contribute to an ethical and sustainable web.

Did you know? Our process from content through to design and development already has AODA compliance built in! Interested to learn more? Reach out and let us help you make your website a more inclusive space.