



PRESS RELEASE

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Nominations Open for “Accessibility Matters Here” Award Across Niagara Region

Niagara Region, ON – Communities across Niagara are coming together to recognize businesses that are making meaningful strides toward accessibility and inclusion. Nominations open April 10 and close May 14.

The **Accessibility Matters Here** Award celebrates local businesses that are actively working to create more inclusive, accessible spaces for individuals with disabilities. The initiative highlights those who are prioritizing inclusion and taking intentional steps to improve how welcoming, usable, and accessible their spaces and services are.

Recipients will receive a certificate and a door decal identifying their business as accessible and inclusive, offering a visible and trusted signal to customers that accessibility is not only considered, but actively prioritized in their experience.

What the Award Recognizes

The award highlights businesses that:

- Remove barriers
- Accessible communication
- Equitable employment
- Provide accessible customer service
- Create safe and navigable spaces

How to Nominate

Nominations open **April 10 and close May 14**.

- Forms are available on participating municipal websites
- Or submit by email: (for JAAC) donna@theherringtongroup.ca or for STC AAC email: accessibility@stcatharines.ca

“Accessibility is not a feature, it’s a responsibility we all share,” says Dan Whipple, Chair of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC). “Across Niagara, there are businesses and organizations quietly making meaningful changes that improve how people experience their spaces and services every day. This award is about recognizing that work and encouraging others to take those same steps forward. I encourage everyone to nominate organizations that are helping make our community more inclusive and accessible for all.”

An initiative of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee and the St. Catharines Accessibility Advisory Committee, the award celebrates efforts across Niagara, including Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Grimsby, Port Colborne, and St. Catharines.

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