

## **Algoma University Accessibility Plan**

### **Introduction:**

Algoma University published its first formal Accessibility Plan as required under the terms of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act. A further requirement of this act calls for an annual review of the Plan and for the establishment of goals and objectives for the forthcoming year.

The Accessibility Committee has met annually to monitor progress on the University's first plan (03/04). The composition of the Committee remains unchanged – it includes the President, Director of University Services & Physical Plant, Registrar & Director of Enrolment Management, Co-ordinator Learning Centre/Special Needs, Human Resource Officer and two faculty members.

### **Review of First Plan**

In the paragraphs which follow, the recommendations set out in the 2003/04 plan are listed below followed by a commentary on the status of their implementation.

#### **Strategies for achieving improvement include:**

- a) Post the Accessibility Plan, once approved, on the Algoma University web-site

**Status: Completed. Will post annual up-dates and revisions to the original plan**

- b) Strategies for achieving improvement within the university environment.

**Status: Continuance of regular communication between management, employees, faculty and students to collaborate ideas for improvement via the Health & Safety Committee and Human Resources to strengthen campus culture with respect to the treatment of individuals with disabilities.**

- c) Consultation with students concerning the location and accessibility of the Learning Centre/ Special Needs office.

**Status: The Learning Centre (including Special Needs Offices) as well as all student service offices have been relocated to the first floor of our main building. This now provides all students and, particularly, students with disabilities, full and accessible access to all services. The issue of confidentiality in the Co-ordinator's office has also been addressed.**

d) The application of Universal Instructional Design at Algoma University.

**Status: Work in Progress. The results of a UID questionnaire sent out to faculty indicated the need to provide workshops on the principles of UID. The Learning Centre Co-ordinator provided an overview to the Curriculum Committee explaining UID principles and distributed faculty workbooks dealing with issues associated with course delivery and effective lecturing. The information will be used to formulate a UID plan. Faculty training continues to be provided on an annual basis.**

### **Campus Accessibility**

e) Third accessible entrance currently being installed on West Wing entrance door.

**Status: Completed . Currently have 4 accessible doors and a fifth that will be fully operational once auto opener installed**

e) Ground Portables are completely inaccessible; slated for demolition

**Status: Completed Emptied and removed by Algoma University**

f) Improved signage with accessibility and Braille indicators on interior rooms and directional signage.

**Status: In process. Interior signs are being tendered. Exterior signs being discussed and priced. Once accepted at the committee level it will be presented to the board for approval.**

g) There are plans to renovate the old manse building and provide ramps, elevators, automatic entrances, and accessible washrooms.

**Status: Completed**

### **Conclusion:**

The Accessibility Committee is pleased with the progress that has been made since the original plan to improve the physical and pedagogical environment for those with disabilities. It is important that the University continue this momentum as we work towards a campus where all types of barriers to learning or working are eliminated.