

Dear Mayor Liggett and Members of Council,

May 12th 2025

Barrier-Free Cambridge is writing to express deep concern over the City's consideration of closing Dickson and Duncan McIntosh Arenas. These facilities, though older and smaller in scale, are fully accessible and serve as vital, inclusive spaces for the communities they support.

Both Dickson and Duncan McIntosh Arenas feature barrier-free entrances, power-operated interior doors, accessible spectator areas, fully accessible washrooms, and an adult-sized change table at Dickson arena which is an essential feature currently lacking in most other municipal facilities.

These aren't just checkboxes on an accessibility list, they are lifelines for residents with disabilities, especially children and youth who participate in inclusive camps, sports programs, and events such as the Fall Fair.

While modernization and expansion may be goals in some areas, closing well-functioning, inclusive facilities removes crucial access points from neighbourhoods that depend on them. The shift to centralized mega-complexes may create unintended barriers, particularly for families who cannot travel far or navigate large, overstimulating environments.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, and its accompanying regulations under Ontario Regulation 191/11, make clear that municipalities have a legal obligation not only to remove existing barriers, but to prevent the creation of new ones. Closing these smaller accessible arenas could unintentionally create systemic barriers for people with disabilities, contravening the AODA.

These arenas are not obsolete, they are equitable, trusted, and needed.

We call on Council to reject the proposed closure of Dickson and Duncan McIntosh Arenas. Barrier-Free Cambridge urges you to protect, not dismantle, spaces that already model the kind of inclusive infrastructure our City should be expanding.

Sincerely,
Barrier-Free Cambridge
"Access is a right, not a feature"



ACCESSIBILITY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT CHECKLIST

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Faci	lity Name DICKSON ARENA	
	ew Date <u>65/12/2025</u> Reviewer Name	DEUIN SISAK
	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	OVERALL FACILITY ACCESSIBILIT
1. Ge	tting There	
X	Sidewalks are present, wide, and in good condition.	Exceeds ExpectationsMeets Expectations
X	Curb cuts/ramps are available at corners and parking areas.	Needs Improvement
X	Public transit stops nearby are accessible (e.g. sidewalk, pad, shelter, seating).	COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK
\nearrow	Wayfinding signs to entrance are clear and readable.	
2. Parking		
X X X	Accessible parking spaces are clearly marked. Spaces are close to the entrance. There's a clear, level or ramped path from parking to entrance. Access aisles are provided and unobstructed.	
3. Ent	trance	
X	At least one main entrance is accessible (automatic door operator).	
X	Doorways are wide enough (minimum 36 inches clear width).	
X	Thresholds are low or beveled. Door handles are easy to grasp (lever or push-	REVIEWER ACKNOWLEDGMENT
X	button style).	

Reviewer Signature

Date



see comments

ACCESSIBILITY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT CHECKLIST

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Facility Name DICKSON ARENA	
Review Date <u>05/12/2025</u> Reviewer Name	Devin Sisak
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	COMMENTS AND FEEDBAC
 4. Inside the Building – General Clear, wide paths throughout (minimum 36 inches). No tripping hazards (rugs, cords, uneven flooring). Lighting is adequate and non-glare. Signage includes clear text, high contrast, and Braille where needed. Emergency exits are accessible and clearly marked. 	Although the counters are not at accessible heights, accessible customs service is provided.
5. Elevators (if multi-level) Elevator is present and functioning. Controls are at an accessible height. Buttons are tactile and/or Braille. Audible floor announcements are present. Space for a user with a mobility device to turn around.	
6. Communication & Information Access	
Staff are trained to provide information in accessible formats upon request (e.g. large print, plain language, digital formats).	
Visual and audible announcements are used for important information (e.g. waiting rooms, emergencies).	REVIEWER ACKNOWLEDGMEN
Information screens or kiosks are accessible (e.g. height, contrast, tactile buttons, screen reader compatibility).	Reviewer Signature

05/12/2075

Date



ACCESSIBILITY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT CHECKLIST

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:	
Facility Name DICKSON ARENA	Devin Sisar
Review Date <u>05/12/2025</u> Reviewer Name	
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK
 7. Washrooms At least one accessible stall (grab bars, space for turning). If a universal washroom there is an emergency call button. Sink is at wheelchair height, with clearance underneath. Automatic or lever faucets. Accessories at accessible height (hand dryer, soap dispenser, sharps container). Adult change table (note if absent). Door is wide and easy to open (has automatic opener and lock). 	Service areas are not at an accessible height but accessible customer service is offered The changerooms are small but they are enough to accomplate young children. Arena has an accessible viewing platform that allows mobility device users an itegrated seating option.
8. Counters, Seating & Service Areas	
Service counters have lowered accessible sections.	
Chairs/seating areas are available with space for wheelchairs.	
No fixed seating only (some movable options).Assistive listening systems available in meeting	
or service areas.	REVIEWER ACKNOWI EDGMEN

REVIEWER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Reviewer Signature

05/12/2025



button style).

ACCESSIBILITY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT CHECKLIST

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Faci	lity Name Duncan McIntosh	Arena
Revi	ew Date <u>05/12/2025</u> Reviewer Name	DEUIN SISAK
	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	OVERALL FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY
1. Ge	tting There	
\nearrow	Sidewalks are present, wide, and in good condition.	Exceeds ExpectationsMeets Expectations
\nearrow	Curb cuts/ramps are available at corners and parking areas.	Needs Improvement
\nearrow	Public transit stops nearby are accessible (e.g. sidewalk, pad, shelter, seating).	COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK
\nearrow	Wayfinding signs to entrance are clear and readable.	
2. Parking		
\ \ \ \	Accessible parking spaces are clearly marked. Spaces are close to the entrance. There's a clear, level or ramped path from parking to entrance.	
\nearrow	Access aisles are provided and unobstructed.	
3. Entrance		
X X	At least one main entrance is accessible (automatic door operator). Doorways are wide enough (minimum 36 inches clear width).	
X	Thresholds are low or beveled. Door handles are easy to grash (lever or push-	REVIEWER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Reviewer Signature

05/17/7025 Date



ACCESSIBILITY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT CHECKLIST

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Facility Name Ducan McIntosh	Arena
Review Date <u>05/17/7075</u> Reviewer Name	Devin Sisak
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK
4. Inside the Building - General	
Clear, wide paths throughout (minimum 36 inches).	
No tripping hazards (rugs, cords, uneven flooring). Lighting is adequate and non-glare.	
Signage includes clear text, high contrast, and Braille where needed.	
Emergency exits are accessible and clearly marked.	
5. Elevators (if multi-level)	
Elevator is present and functioning.	
Controls are at an accessible height.	
Buttons are tactile and/or Braille.	
Audible floor announcements are present.	
Space for a user with a mobility device to	
turn around.	
. Communication & Information Access	
Staff are trained to provide information in	
accessible formats upon request (e.g. large print,	
plain language, digital formats).	
∇ Visual and audible announcements are used for	
important information (e.g. waiting rooms,	
emergencies).	REVIEWER ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Information screens or kiosks are accessible (e.g.	
height, contrast, tactile buttons, screen reader	She side
compatibility).	Reviewer Signature

05/12/2025

Date



ACCESSIBILITY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT CHECKLIST

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Facility Name Duncan McIntosh Review Date 05/12/2025 Reviewer Name	Arena Devin Sisak
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK
7. Washrooms At least one accessible stall (grab bars, space for turning). If a universal washroom there is an emergency call button. Sink is at wheelchair height, with clearance underneath. Automatic or lever faucets. Accessories at accessible height (hand dryer, soap dispenser, sharps container). Adult change table (note if absent). Door is wide and easy to open (has automatic opener and lock).	No adult-sized Change table present but the possible space for one in the gymis universal washroom. Consession counter is not at an accessible level, but accessible customer service is offered
8. Counters, Seating & Service Areas	
Service counters have lowered accessible sections.	
Chairs/seating areas are available with space for wheelchairs.	
No fixed seating only (some movable options). Assistive listening systems available in meeting	
or service areas.	PEVIEWER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

REVIEWER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Reviewer Signature

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