

# Grand River Foods Ltd

## Accessibility for Ontarians Disability Act (AODA)

### Accessibility Policy

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#### Intent

Grand River Foods, a division of Sunrise Farms Ltd., (hereinafter referred to as Grand River Foods) is committed to providing a barrier-free environment for all stakeholders, including clients, employees, job applicants, suppliers, and any visitors who enter the premises, work for the company, access information provided by the company, or use the company's goods and services.

The company works to identify and remove barriers and prevent new barriers for persons with disabilities as they relate to employment, receipt of goods and services, the built environment, and information and communications. The company acts so that dignity and inclusion can be experienced by all. This policy outlines the company's strategy for identifying, removing, and preventing these barriers.

#### Definitions

Accessible formats: Include but are not limited to large print, recorded audio and electronic formats, braille, and other formats usable by persons with disabilities.

Assistive device: Any medical device, mobility aid, communication aid, or other aid that is specially designed to assist a person with a disability with a need related to their disability.

Communication supports: Captioning, alternative and augmentative communication supports, plain language, sign language, and other supports that facilitate effective communications.

Constructive discrimination: Also referred to as adverse effect, is discrimination that unintentionally singles out a particular group, resulting in unequal treatment.

Disability: Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication, and sensory impairment, or functional limitation that is either permanent, temporary, or episodic in nature. It can be evident or not in interaction with a barrier to hinder a person's full and equal participation in society.

Mobility aid: Any manual or electric wheelchair, scooter, boarding chair, walker, cane, crutch, prosthesis, or other aid that is specially designed to assist a person with a disability with a need related to mobility.

Service animal: An animal that can be recognized by visual indicators such as a vest or harness that is being used by an individual with a disability for reasons relating to the person's disability.

Support person: Another person who accompanies an individual with a disability in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care, medical needs, or access to goods and services.

## Guidelines

### Employment

Grand River Foods makes every effort to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to employment by developing inclusive procedures that support and accommodate persons with disabilities throughout their recruitment and employment. Whenever a candidate requires accommodation to enable them to fully participate in the recruitment and selection process, or a current employee requires accommodation in the workplace, the company works with the individual to provide such accommodation up to the point of undue hardship.

### Job Design

Grand River Foods proactively conducts thorough job analyses to ensure new and existing job requirements are bona fide occupational requirements: that is, reasonable and made in good faith. To determine whether a requirement is bona fide, the company ensures the following:

1. The requirement achieves a goal that is rationally connected to performing the job.
2. The requirement is adopted in good faith and fulfills a legitimate work-related purpose.
3. The requirement is reasonably necessary to accomplish a work-related process or task.

Where a requirement is not bona fide, the company evaluates and determines whether reasonable accommodations can be provided to individuals to achieve equal opportunity in the workplace. The company always works to ensure job design is non-discriminatory, including assessing jobs and working requirements for the potential of constructive discrimination.

### Recruitment and Hiring

Grand River Foods completes recruitment and selection activities in a way that ensures dignity and inclusion for all who participate. Upon request, the company provides candidates with reasonable accommodation during the interview and selection process. The company consults with the candidate to arrange suitable, personalized accommodation.

Grand River Foods is committed to hiring decisions that are unbiased and based on qualifications and experience. The company interview process focusses on experience and skills and will not discriminate against candidates who have a disability or require an accommodation, whether it is required during the interview process or would be required if the candidate were hired. Successful candidates are made aware of policies and support for accommodations upon completion of the recruitment process.

### Training and Development

Grand River Foods recognizes that skills development and career planning can enrich the employment experience, increase engagement, and reduce turnover for all employees. To this end, all employees are treated equally regarding training opportunities, and the company does not discriminate against employees who require accommodation when considering eligibility for training and development.

The company aligns training and development programs to meet the needs of employees with disabilities and provides training as soon as reasonably practicable to the person being assigned to applicable duties. Training programs are designed with flexibility to allow

customization for the individual requirements of the employee, such as providing training materials in accessible or conversion-ready formats that consider the need of the employee. The company considers employee barriers when implementing performance management processes, or when offering career development, employment support, or advancement opportunities.

## **Emergency Response**

If necessary or upon request, Grand River Foods creates individualized workplace emergency response plans for employees with disabilities. The emergency response plan considers the unique challenges created by the individual's disability and the physical nature of the workplace and is created in consultation with the employee. If an employee with a disability requires assistance from a support person during an emergency, the company designates a fellow mutually agreed upon employee to act as such. Where necessary, this employee will have the required first aid training and certification necessary to provide emergency support.

Customized emergency response plans would be reviewed when:

- The employee moves to a different physical location in the organization.
- The employee's overall accommodation needs or plans are reviewed; and
- The company reviews general emergency response policies.

## **Return to Work**

Grand River Foods provides a supportive return-to-work program and develops and implements return-to-work processes for employees who are absent from work due to a disability and require accommodations to return to work. The company works with the employee and their treating medical professionals to develop an individualized return-to-work plan and support the employee in the transition period by identifying and eliminating or reducing any barriers. The return-to-work process outlines the steps the company will take to facilitate the employee's return to work and any individualized accommodation needs.

## **Inability to Accommodate**

Grand River Foods provides workplace accommodation up to the point of undue hardship. Undue hardship may occur where it is established that no forms of reasonable accommodation exist, or where the creation of accommodation would create a health and safety hazard or cause unreasonable costs for the organization.

Where necessary accommodation is found to cause undue hardship on the organization, the company will work to find a fair and equitable compromise that meets the needs of the employee and the organization to the greatest extent possible.

## **Customer Service**

### **Access to Goods and Services**

Grand River Foods seeks to provide barrier-free access to the company's goods and services for all customers. Where barriers cannot be removed, alternate means for accessing goods or services are provided to the best of the company's ability.

## **Support Persons and Service Animals**

If a customer with a disability is accompanied by a support person, Grand River Foods ensures that both people may enter the premises together and that the customer is not prevented from having access to the support person. A customer with a disability accompanied by a service animal may access premises that are open to the public unless otherwise excluded by law.

## **Communication**

Grand River Foods understands the importance of accessible digital and non-digital forms of communication and does its best to provide accessible types of communication and information to all individuals with disabilities. Such accessible formats and communication support are provided upon request, in a timely manner and at no additional cost.

## **Service Disruptions**

Service disruptions may occur for reasons that may or may not be within the control or knowledge of Grand River Foods. In the event of any temporary disruptions to facilities or services that customers with disabilities rely on to access or use goods or services, reasonable efforts will be made to provide advance notice.

When disruptions occur, the company will:

- Post notices in the nearest accessible entrance to the service disruption.
- Update the company website with information about the disruption; and

The company makes every reasonable effort to indicate when services will resume and suggest alternatives that can be used during the disruption. In some circumstances, such as in the situation of unplanned temporary disruptions or emergencies, notice may not be possible.

## **Feedback**

Grand River Foods acknowledges that customer and employee feedback can lead to improved service, increased clientele, a reduction in complaints, improved working conditions, and an improved workplace culture, especially as it applies to accessibility. The company ensures that feedback can be provided by persons with disabilities through various methods. Feedback forms, along with alternate accessible methods of providing feedback, are available upon request.

Individuals who provide formal feedback receive acknowledgement of their feedback, along with information regarding any resulting actions based on their submitted concerns or complaints.

Feedback can be submitted to:

Customer Service  
519-653-3577 ext 2147  
190 Vondrau Dr. Cambridge, ON N3E 1B4  
grfcustomer@sunrisefarms.ca

Feedback can be provided anonymously if desired, and feedback remains confidential unless the person consents to the disclosure of their personal information. Feedback is received in whatever format the individual providing the feedback is most comfortable with. The personal

information of anyone who provides feedback remains confidential in accordance with all applicable privacy laws.

### **Building Accessibility**

Grand River Foods works to ensure that the built environment, including building interiors and exteriors, is designed to facilitate barrier-free access to goods, services, and employment for customers and employees. If areas of the built environment are not accessible for certain individuals with disabilities, the company will work with the individual to provide an alternate means of access up to the point of undue hardship.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it reflects current practices of Grand River Foods as well as legislative requirements.