Introduction: An Accessible Web

This guide developed by the IITS Web development team will get you started with developing websites compliant with The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (https://accessontario.com/aoda). Most of this guide will cover points on how to ensure your web content such as text,

Validate Existing Site

A web accessibility evaluation tool called WAVE (http://wave.webaim.org/) is available on the WebAIM site. Entering the URL of your existing site will provide a summary highlighting areas for concern as well as included usability features on that page.

Going over the validation results and fixing errors will bring your site closer to being accessible.

Text

The content on your website should be easy to read for all users. Font size, style, colour and contrast are a few of the things that can help ensure that text is readable by all users, even if they have low vision.

Structure

Titles

The user can then quickly understand what content is on the page and if it has the information they need.

There are a few best-practices to keep in mind when using header tags. Let's take a look at the same information with the HTML showing:

<h1>Summer Kite Flying</h1>

Egestas sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient .

<h2>Location</h2>
Nullam quis risus eget urna mollis ornare vel eu leo.

<h2>Dates</h2>
Egestas sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes.

<h2>Prizes & Giveaways</h2>

Sometimes it may be necessary to deviate from the natural tab order. Should you come across such a situation and need assistance in determining the best user experience please contact the web team at: web@utsc.utoronto.ca

Links

Links are one of the core components of HTML. It provides the user the means of moving from

Tables

Since screen readers handle tables differently from each other, the use of tables should be limited to presenting tabular data. When used, the zebra striping (alternating row colours) should almost always employed in order to make each row more easily readable as in the example below:

Since screen readers will not determine which cells contain the headers unless they are

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