

# ACCESSTO.CA



HIGHLIGHTING A **BARRIER FREE** TORONTO

AccessTO is a not for profit organization that was created after a group of health professionals felt that there was a need for more in-depth reviews of the physical environments in our community.



- Through our blog [www.accessto.ca](http://www.accessto.ca) , users can view detailed accessibility audits of over 300 establishments in Toronto.
- Our readership community includes wheelchair users, caregivers, business owners and parents pushing strollers. AccessTO is a dependable guide to ensure they will not be met with any physical barriers when enjoying this great city
- We are passionate about improving accessibility in Toronto by spotlighting businesses that are doing it right



**AccessTO is fully run by a volunteer Board of Directors** – a group of individuals from various disciplines who are passionate about improving accessibility in Toronto

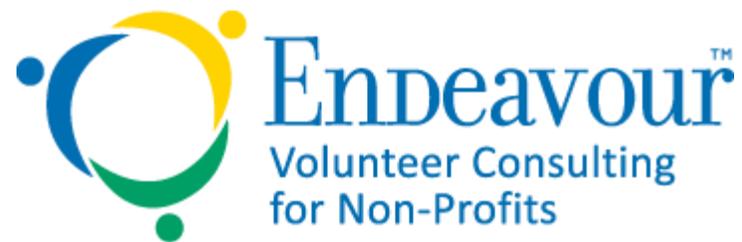
**AccessTO is entering its 6th year of providing the city with this much-needed information** – information that is researched and crafted specifically for the AccessTO community by our trained volunteers.



**In the last year, we've started working with partners on developing:**

- New training materials that will allow us to train more volunteers faster
- A revenue generation strategy that will help us ensure long-term organizational stability.
- Collaborative relationships with the City of Toronto

St. Stephen's  
Community House



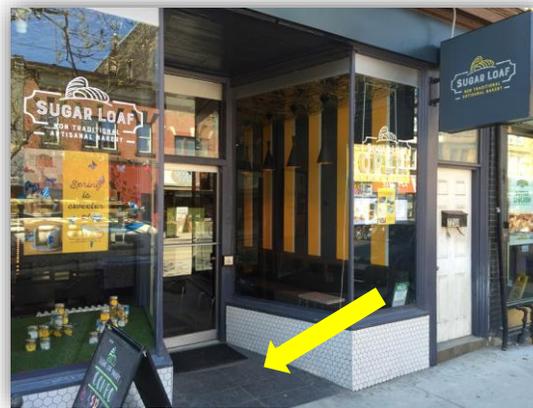
## How are the spaces reviewed?

- Accessibility reviews are free of charge and voluntary, with establishments being contacted in advance of visit for approval
- Our team of volunteers are screened and trained to ensure they are able to assess a space with an established criteria list
- The AccessTO criteria for evaluating a space is modeled after a best in class standard-The City of London's Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) and includes:

- Accessible entrance
- Accessible washroom
- Standard height tables

### Other criteria we have adapted:

- Transit/Parking/Access to sidewalks
- Sensory (light/sound/printed signs/menus)



# ACCESS TO

## Highlighting a Barrier Free TORONTO

If the venue meets the minimal accessibility criteria, the volunteer will do a write-up on the space and it will get featured on AccessTO.ca



Nando's menu is extensive, with many colours and categories to choose from. The menu is easily accessed online, and Braille and large print formats are available as well. The restaurant was relatively quiet during our late afternoon visit; however, it does tend to get busy at lunch and dinner time.

### NANDO'S DANFORTH

December 13, 2018



671 Danforth Ave, Toronto, ON M4J 1L3

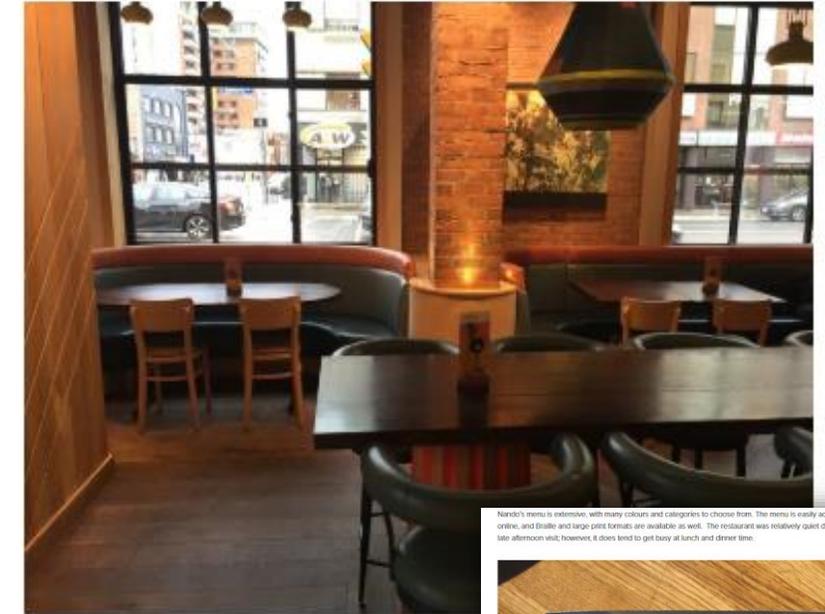
Call: (416) 461-5551

Nando's Danforth is a bustling and eccentric joint in the heart of the Danforth, just one block away from Pape's accessible subway station. It has a huge indoor space which allows for families, friends and groups of all sizes to enjoy a delicious and exciting meal.

Nando's Danforth brings in bright colours, designs and tastes from its South African roots to the neighbourhood. You can get anything from appetizers, to salads, to a vast variety of chicken dishes, or even dessert. Nando's also has vegetarian and gluten-free options to choose from.

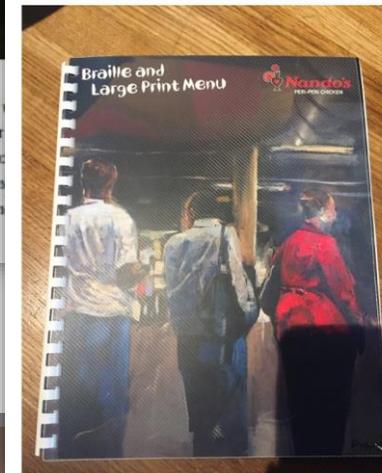
Nando's Danforth's threshold-free entrance features two 37.5" doors with automatic openers, separated by a small vestibule. There is ample space to maneuver in the front of the entrance which has a service desk and friendly staff to greet you. The flooring is smooth, evenly textured wood with no level changes. Given that winter is upon us, there is a flat mat in front of the door to dry off shoes or wheels of mobility devices.

The restaurant is very spacious with many types of seating options. There are booths, standard tables, tables with booth seating on one side and sturdy wooden chairs on the other side, and high top tables with stools. The tables with removable chairs are 27.5" high and have a pedestal base.



The entrance to the accessible private washroom measures 37" wide. In the accessible private washroom, there is a button to lock the door as well as to call for the toilet – L shape: 33.5" high to the left of the toilet and a horizontal sink measures 28" high and 23" wide with open space underneath. The sink is automatic and at an accessible height. There is a hook on the back of the door for a change table for infants.

Nando's menu is extensive, with many colours and categories to choose from. The menu is easily accessed online, and Braille and large print formats are available as well. The restaurant was relatively quiet during our late afternoon visit; however, it does tend to get busy at lunch and dinner time.



## Why is AccessTO important?

The AODA sets out to create standards in 5 areas: customer service, employment, communications, transportation, and **design of public spaces**. Unfortunately, this is also the order of development

As we wait for employees at the Canadian Standards Association to publish set criteria for restaurant patrons in Toronto to follow, we should take note of the already barrier-free places to create change sooner.

## Tips for Business Improvement Areas

- Delegate an accessibility advocate who can provide up to date information regarding advancements of the AODA in Ontario. This individual can also be the contact for business members when questions arise regarding accessibility
- Provide information sessions twice a year for members interested in learning how to make their spaces more accessible.

## Future direction of AccessTO

Establish working relationships with the 5 largest BIAs in Toronto to:

1. Garner interest from businesses to have their space featured on AccessTO
2. Assist the BIAs with information sessions or events that relates to accessibility
3. Create a model of excellence to then market to BIAs all over Ontario who may want to start their own accessibility project (i.e. AccessVaughan)

## Questions?

Feel free to contact us at: [info@accesssto.ca](mailto:info@accesssto.ca)



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