

Information and Communications Accessibility Design Standards (ICADS)





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Kawartha Lakes is committed to complying with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) in order to create a barrier-free Ontario. We are committed to the four core principles of dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity. We support the full inclusion of persons as set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the AODA. Alternate formats for this document are available upon request or for information concerning the 2024-2029 Accessibility Plan, contact the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA) Partner at 705.324.9411 extension 2136 or accessibility@kawarthalakes.ca.

Acknowledgements

Re: Information and Communications Accessibility Design Standards

Dear reader / user of these standards,

On behalf of the Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes, we are pleased to present the **Information** and Communications Accessible Design Standards (ICADS). The use of the Information and Communications Accessible Design standards is mandatory for all new content drafted by the City and its contractors. These standards amalgamate Provincial Standards as outlined in the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation and World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, at Level AA. This document also outlines corporate branding stipulations as outlined in the Kawartha Lakes Brand Book.

The City of Kawartha Lakes would like to recognize those that have reviewed and contributed to the content in this comprehensive guide:

- Members of the Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Advisory Committee
- CAO and Senior Management Team
- Christine Briggs, IDEA Partner
- Nicole McKeen, Manager, Inclusion and Rewards
- Cheri Davidson, Manager, Communications Advertising and Marketing
- Fiddle Leaf Accessibility, Digital Accessibility Consultant

Introduction

In the 2024 to 2027 Strategic plan, the City of Kawartha Lakes reaffirmed its commitment to accessible programing by adopting a mission based on delivering the highest standard of municipal service for all residents. This mission is guided by a corporate commitment to accountability, transparency, and equitable access to services - this includes accessible information and communications.

The Information and Communication Accessibility Design Standards were developed to help staff and third party contractors meet the legislated standards set forth by the province. By combining the standards found in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) and the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, at Level AA, we are ensuring that information and communication expectations are clearly defined. These standards are mandatory for all municipal communications, publications, digital platforms, and public engagement materials including published Council Reports and presentations.

In addition to following the principles outlined in the AODA and the WCAG 2.0, any corporate publications must consider the intent of the Ontario Human Rights Code towards respecting the dignity of individuals with varying abilities.



"The phrase 'respect their dignity' means to act in a manner which recognizes the privacy. confidentiality, comfort, autonomy and self-esteem of persons with disabilities, which maximizes their integration and which promotes full participation in society."

- Ontario Human Rights Commission

How to use the Standards

Project Designers and website contributors must exercise professional judgment and expertise when using the document. The Information and Communications Accessibility Design Standard (ICADS) does not release the consultant from liability or the need for due diligence in the design process.

A City Staff Team (as appointed by the CAO and Senior Management Team) will review and / or update the document every five years under the coordination of the Inclusion Diversity Equity Accessibility (IDEA) Partner to reflect changes in legislation, technological advancement and new construction practices.

The Information and Communications Accessibility Design Standard (ICADS) has been formatted specifically to assist the reader by providing a user friendly document with easy to read language and many images and diagrams. The standard has five major sections:



Plain Language Guidelines



Accessibility in Microsoft Word



Accessibility in PowerPoint



Portable Document Format (PDF) Accessibility



Corporate Brand Guidelines



Use active voice instead of passive

✓ Correct:

- X Incorrect:
- The City published this by-law.

• The by-law was published by the City.

Consider the audience of your content

- Avoid jargon words, and provide background explanations and context where necessary. Don't assume your audience is an expert!
- Aim for a 7th to 8th grade reading level, using short and simple sentences.

Swap out complex words for simpler vocabulary:

- Accomplish = Do
- Adequate = Enough
- Allocate = Give
- Assist = Help
- Commence = Begin
- Commence = Start
- Eliminate = Remove
- Ensure = Make sure

- Expedite = Speed up
- Facilitate = Assist
- Formulate = Form
- Inform = Tell
- Locality = Place
- Modify = Change
- Obtain = Get
- Optimum = Best

- Regarding = About
- Request = Ask
- Strategize = Plan
- Utilize = Use
- In order to = To
- By means of = By
- Instantiate = set up

Define all acronyms

The first time you use acronyms spell them out in full with the acronym in brackets after it. For long documents, provide a glossary if you have more than twenty acronyms or if your document is more than fifty pages.

✓ Correct:

- X Incorrect:
- Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation (KLHHC)
- KLHHC

Time is written without capitals or spaces

✓ Correct:

X Incorrect:

• 11am or 1:30pm

• 11AM or 1:30P.M.

No double-spaces between words or sentences

Use the Show/Hide tool to review your document spacing. The Show/Hide tool for Microsoft is an icon of a Pilcrow (shown on the right).



• > Follow: heading:nesting:(example::H1,:H2,:H3,:back:to:H1,:H2,:etc.):and:don't: jump·between·heading·levels·(example:·H1,·H4,·H2,·H3,·etc.)¶

> With the Show/Hide tool selected, arrows show tabs. dots show spaces and pilcrows show paragraph breaks.

No ampersands (&), unless they're a part of a company name or branding

✓ Correct:

X Incorrect:

• Parks and Recreation

• Parks & Recreation

Dates are written out in full, using only one comma

✓ Correct:

X Incorrect:

• June 2018 or Friday June 15, 2018

- 06/15/2018
- June 15th
- Fri. June, 15, 2018

Ordinal numbers are written correctly

✓ Correct:

X Incorrect:

- He ran the race and came in third
- The 15th annual race
- It is July 15th



Accessibility in Microsoft Word



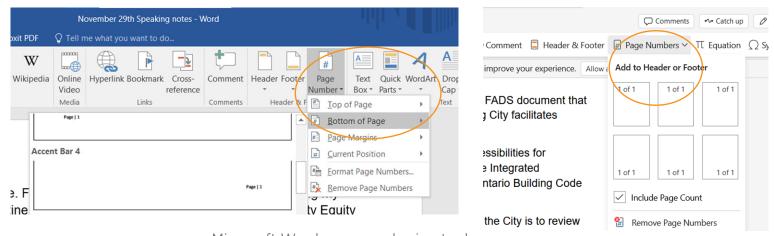
Structure

 Use <u>headings</u> to structure content. Review the <u>Kawartha Lakes Brand Book</u> for corporate branding guidelines as they relate to heading colour and font size.



Kawartha Lakes colour palette.

- Follow <u>heading nesting</u> (example: H1, H2, H3, back to H1, H2, etc.) and don't jump between heading levels (example: H1, H4, H2, H3, etc.)
- Add a <u>Table of Contents</u> for any document more than a few pages.
- Use the built in list tool to create lists.
- Add page numbers for any document more than a few pages. Include the total number of pages, such as "2 of 5" instead of "2". Avoid adding important information to headers and footers (such as "draft" or "confidential"). Instead, add this to the title of the document or on the first page.



Microsoft Word page numbering tool.

Accessibility in Microsoft Word

• Write <u>meaningful link text</u> that can be understood without surrounding context. See the examples of this document. Avoid unclear link text such as "click here", "learn more", "download", etc.

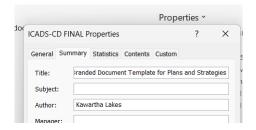


 The City of Kawartha Lakes' website

X Incorrect:

 This is the City of Kawartha Lakes' website www.kawarthalakes.ca

- Use the line spacing tool to increase spacing between lines of text, do not use hard returns.
- Set the language of the document.
- Fill in metadata for document properties so that document is easily searchable by screen reading technologies (File>Info>Properties>Advanced Properties>Summary)



Microsoft Word "Document Properties" panel.

Styles and Fonts

- Use 12 pt font and above with an easy-to-read sans-serif font. Kawartha Lakes Brand fonts are Tahoma and Gotham.
- Do not center or justify text, always use left-alignment.
- Ensure <u>text has sufficient contrast</u> (3:1 for text 18pt or above, 4.5:1 for text below 18 pts). Use a contrast checker as needed. Generally, using dark text with a light background will meet contrast requirements, but use a contrast checker to confirm.
- Ensure links are a different colour than normal text and are underlined to <u>distinguish links from surrounding text</u>. The standard on the web is blue text with an underline, which is the default in Word and many editors.
- Do not use styles or <u>colour to convey meaning</u> without providing a text based alternative.
- Do not put text in all capitals.
- Avoid italics and underline for emphasizing text and instead use **bold** as it is easiest to read.
- Keep line spacing between 1.5 to 2.
- Use sentence case in your titles Kawartha Lakes standard is sentence case. This means no capitals are used except for the first word of a sentence or title, and proper nouns.

✓ Correct:

- This is the headline of the press release.
- Today is the first day to apply for the Building Faster Fund.

X Incorrect:

 Today Is The First Day To Apply For The Building Faster Fund.

Images

- Add <u>alt text</u> to meaningful images and mark <u>non meaningful images as decorative</u>. If you are using Word 2016 you will not have the ability to mark as decorative- leave alt text blank. If your image includes too much information to capture in a couple sentences of alt text, include a text based description of the image in your content.
- Keep text in images to an absolute minimum, with a short sentence at most included.
- For linked images, use alt text to describe the link destination. Avoid linked images.
- Images must have rounded corners to align with Kawartha Lakes branding.



Sample of rounded corners on a photo.

To give a photo rounded corners:

- 1. Insert photo onto page
- 2. Click on photo to bring up "Picture Format" to toolbar
- **3.** Click on "Picture Format" to bring up "Crop"
- **4.** From the "Crop" feature, select "Crop to Shape"
- 5. From the Rectangles, select the rounded

Complex Images

Complex images refer to items like maps, charts, blue prints etc. While it is not always possible to make these items completely accessible there are things that we can do to make them "more accessible":

- If you include a map in your document that shows points of interest, link the destination to Google Maps. Google maps will provide text based directions and read directions out loud to users
- If a map displays multiple locations with various amenities at each location create a table that lists the point of interest, the address (linked to google maps) and the discernible features that you are looking to highlight (for example, amenities provided at each City park)
- Provide meaningful alt text for complex images where a relationship between the data matters
- Where possible, present the data in charts and graphs in a table format

Note: Current Provincial legislation states that documents must meet requirements unless "meeting the requirement is not practicable" what is and is not practicable has not been defined or tested in a court of law. It is reasonable to assume that providing an accessible text alternative or providing an accessible equivalent is, in most cases "practicable". The legislation states that available software will be considered in making this discernment.

Tables

• Keep table structure/layout as simple as possible to avoid extensive remediation work in Adobe Acrobat Pro. Avoid multi-level heading structures and split up tables as needed.

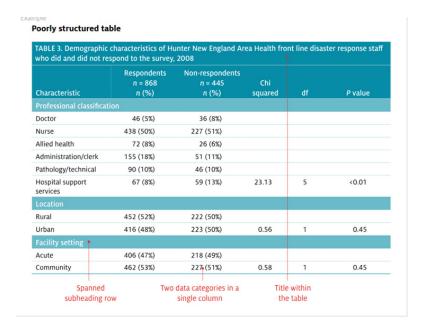
✓ Correct:

- Table title is outside of table
- Each column and row only have one heading
- Broken up into individual tables
- No merged cells



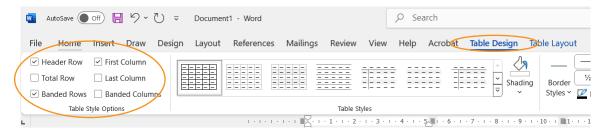
X Incorrect:

Multi-level headings make it hard to navigate with a screen reader



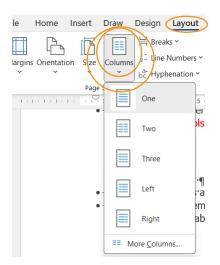
Accessibility in Microsoft Word

• Check off the Header Row checkbox to add table header cells. Once you insert a table, the "Table Design" tool will appear in the navigation bar.



Microsoft Word "Table Design" tool.

- Avoid merging cells as much as possible.
- Do not leave cells empty. Add n/a or a dash, or another placeholder, if no information is available or applicable.
- Avoid using tables for layout purposes, and instead use the Columns tool under Layout to create multi-column layouts.



Microsoft Word "Columns" tool.



in Microsoft **PowerPoint**

Accessibility in Microsoft PowerPoint

The majority of the accessibility principles that apply to Word documents apply to PowerPoint documents as well, but there are some additional requirements and some things that are different.

The City's corporate PowerPoint template can be found in <u>SharePoint</u> under Corporate Documents>Branding and Logos>Corporate Templates.

- Use 18 pt font and above (aim for 25 pt)
- Always keep your text simple and in plain language
- Try not to have more than 6 bullets per page
- No paragraphs on slides. Text should be used as a visual reminder for the speaker to present the full idea
- Heading levels can't be set in PowerPoint. Instead, every slide needs a <u>unique title</u>. A title is included in most default layouts available in PowerPoint.
- Use a Master Template to create consistency in font size, font family, colour scheme, etc. This will also ensure that any background decorative graphics are not read out by screen readers.
 - Use Lake Blue as your main text colour
 - Use River Teal as your secondary text colour
 - Use Jump In Gold as your bullet point colour
- Avoid WordArt
- Use a simple, logical layout.
- Set the Reading Order of content to follow a logical structure.
- Use simple slow animations. Avoid flashing, spinning, etc.
- If you embed audio files, include a transcript.
- Complex Tables: If copying a table from excel into power point, using the "Paste Special" option safeguards the ability to tab through table cells (instead of taking a screen shot and inserting as a photo which eliminates any/all accessible table functions). This also allows the user to update the table information in both programs at the same time. If the table is too large or complex to include on a power point slide, it is helpful to add a link to an accessible version of the table so that readers can table through the cells. Or even a disclaimer that an accessible version of the table is available.



- Paste Special instructions:
 - In PowerPoint, navigate to the slide where you want to paste the data.
 - On the Home tab, click the arrow below Paste and select Paste Special
 - In the Paste Special box, click Paste link and then, under As, select Microsoft Excel Worksheet Object

PowerPoint "Paste Special" panel.

- Always use high-resolution images. Use a photo that is the size you want it to be on the slide when you paste it in, as opposed to enlarging a smaller image. When smaller images are enlarged, they lose resolution and appear blurry on the large screen.
- Always put alternative text in the photo (accessibility checker)



Portable Document Format (PDF) Accessibility



Converting to PDF from Word or PowerPoint

Accessibility Checker

Before exporting, use the Accessibility Checker (note that this only catches a small subset of errors—it will not catch structure and spacing failures to see these use Show/Hide). Using this throughout working on Word documents is recommended.

Exporting to PDF

Export as an accessible PDF. How to do so varies between Windows, Mac and Word Online, and instructions to do so are found in Microsoft's Create accessible PDFs article. Do not use "print to PDF."

"Print to PDF" erases most digital tagging and produces a document that appears entirely blank to assistive technology. It essentially converts your document into a graphic - it's as if you took a photo of your document, so it has no tags of any kind.



X Incorrect:

• Export as an accessible PDF

• "Print to PDF"

PDF Accessibility

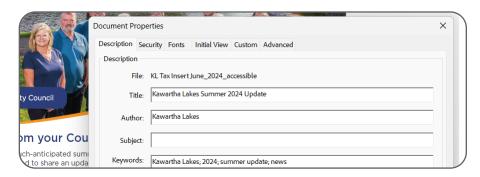
Please note: Adobe Reader cannot create accessible PDFs.

Follow the instructions below along with the previous sections on source document accessibility. Note that there are a few source document requirements that cannot be fixed in Acrobat Pro. Failing to address these requirements, such as contrast issues, images of text, and specific table issues, will prevent your document from meeting WCAG 2.0 AA requirements as per the AODA. In these cases, it is crucial to obtain access to the source document and make the necessary corrections.

If you are starting from an accessible source document, few changes should be required to correct tags. If your source document is not accessible, extensive updates may be required.

If you are new to PDF accessibility, read Adobe's Understanding Accessible PDFs article, WebAIM's Defining PDF Accessibility article and Tagged PDF's What is a Tagged PDF article. If you are a Foxit PDF Editor user, check out the free tools hosted on the Foxit Website.

• Set the title and language of the document.



Adobe PDF "Document Properties" panel to set title and language.

- If you are using security settings, ensure that under Properties > Security "Content Copying for Accessibility" shows as "Allowed" (the location of this setting may be different for older versions of Acrobat Pro).
- Verify that the <u>Reading Order</u> follows the visual order of content, especially for multi-column layouts.



Adobe/Foxit PDF "Reading Order" and icon.

- Ensure all text is presented as real text and is not presented in images of text. Images with a few words are permissible if those words are captured in alt text.
- Check that all content is tagged.

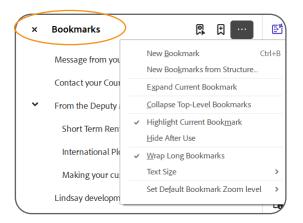


Adobe/Foxit PDF "Tagged Content" (in pink) and icon.

- Ensure Table of Contents are tagged with the correct <TOC> and <TOCI> tags and that any links have <Link-OBJR> tags.
- Verify that all <Link> tags have an associated <Link-OBJR> tag. For link text that is not descriptive, provide more descriptive link text under Properties > Actual Text.
- <Part>, <Div>, <Art>, <Sect> and tags are not read out on screen readers, but ensure they
 do not interfere with other tag structures (such as break up a Table of Contents or List)

PDF Accessibility

- Ensure all images are tagged in <Figure> tags with alt text, unless they are decorative.
- Ensure documents with 20 pages or more have Bookmarks. <u>Bookmarks can be added manually</u> but should populate automatically if headings are set correctly in Word.



Adobe PDF manual "Bookmarks" panel.

- There are multiple steps for table accessibility depending on the complexity:
 - All header cells must be set to <TH> tags.
 - Set the scope and span of <TH> cells.
 - For complex tables with multiple layers of headers, use cell IDs to communicate the structure of the table to assistive technology users instead of scope.
- Check that all lists are marked up using <L>, , <Lbl> and <LBody> tags as needed and are not just marked in <P> tags.
- Artifacts
 - Artifact repeated content such as headers and footers other than the first time they appear on the page.
 - Artifact decorative content such as decorative images or background objects.



Examples of artifacts in a document.

PDF Accessibility

- For fillable form fields, ensure field labels are descriptive and unique, descriptive and unique tooltips are added to each field, and tab order of the fields matches visual order.
- Ensure that all fields that require user input are fillable.
- Run the Accessibility Checker and correct any errors. Note that Colour Contrast and Reading Order must be reviewed manually. It's important to remember that the Accessibility Checker only finds a portion of accessibility issues for WCAG 2.0 AA compliance, and a "clean scan" does not mean your document is accessible.



Adobe PDF "Accessibility Checker."



Corporate Brand Guidelines



Logo









Font

Gotham Please use Gotham font for all titles, headings and body text. Montserrat is also similar to Gotham and available with Adobe subscription.

Tahoma If Gotham is not available, please use Tahoma font for all titles, headings and body text.

Colour palette

Primary Colours



Lake Blue

RGB: 44, 61, 122 #2c3d7a Pantone 2757



Jump In Gold

RGB: 247, 148, 29 #f7941d Pantone 123



River Teal

RGB: 30, 156, 143 #1e9c8f Pantone 3272

Secondary Colours



Barn Red

RGB: 220, 30, 53 #dc1e35 Pantone 186



Sand

RGB: 210, 185, 150 #d2b996 Pantone 727



Field Green

RGB: 52, 122, 59 #347a3b Pantone 7741

Colours for headings/subheadings on a white background





Minimum font sizes:

Gotham Regular size 11pt Tahoma Regular size 12pt



Minimum font sizes:

Gotham Bold size 14pt

Gotham Regular size 17pt

Tahoma Bold size 14pt

Tahoma Regular size 18pt

Colours for headings/subheadings on a lake blue background



Minimum font sizes:

White:

Gotham Regular and Bold size 11pt Tahoma Regular and Bold size 12pt

Jump In Gold:

Gotham Bold size 14pt Gotham Regular size 17pt **Tahoma Bold size 14pt** Tahoma Regular size 18pt

Infographics

Who uses our roads:



cars/trucks



vehicles



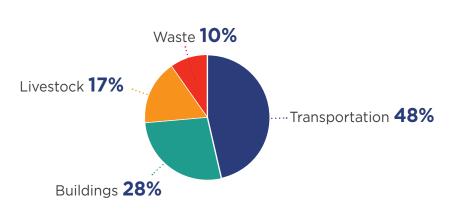
The icons/graphics in infographics are not meant to replace words. They are a visual accompaniment to assist the reader.

Graphs, pie charts and tables

Acuity Breakdown (based on VI-SPDAT)



Community: Baseline Emissions 2015



Contributors to 2019 Operating Pressures	In Millions
Salaries and Benefits	\$3.8
Winter Maintenance	\$0.6
Waste Management	\$0.6
Investment Income	\$0.4
Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund	\$0.2
Eastern Ontario Regional Network	\$0.3
Total	\$5.9

Icons

The following style has been adopted for all icons. Please contact a member of our Communications Divisions at communications@kawarthalakes.ca for access to a suite of icons to suit your project.

The icons are not meant to replace words. They are a visual accompaniment to assist the reader. Icons can be created in any colour from the corporate colour palette which can be found in the Brand Book.

Visit our Brand Portal: https://kawarthalakes.mediavalet.com/ to download the Brand Book, logo variations, resources for graphic designers and more.





















BUSINESS & TEAM

+250 LINE ICONS

INTERNET & SOCIAL

+250 LINE ICONS

WORKS & NATURE

+250 LINE ICONS

ARROWS & SHAPES



+250 LINE ICONS

Photo treatments



A photo can be used inside the wave as a header, please ensure that the wave direction is the same and that the gold line is included.



Caption here if needed

For a photo within the body copy:

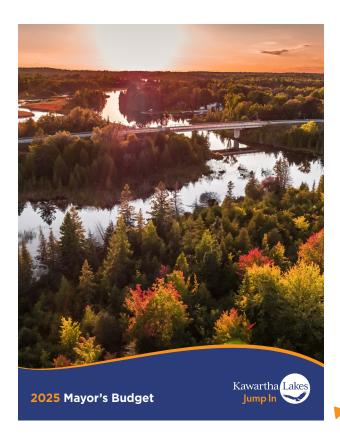
Placement: Whenever possible, keep photo placement left justified.

Text Wrap: When wrapping text around a photo keep .1875" white space

around the photo.

Rounded Corners: .1667"

Sample cover layout



Logo is preferred in bottom right of wave. Only use white or Jump In Gold for text/icons on top of Wave.

Sample page layout

Main heading lake blue Subheading river teal Bitaqui iunt volupta sincto dentusam quodi doles ilibus sam que nimpore henecum nientibercil is eseguam, in rem re aspercia doloreriat . Ut exped ut ea corruptaessi derro ipid quam lam quis accabor esciis dendemp orersped unt verum volupta tatem. Nam velles etur aliciataes quatio. Itaeri dolo to vollis autes ipid quis es esernat. Bitaqui junt volupta sincto dentusam quodi doles ilibus sam que Bitaqui iunt volupta sincto dentusam quodi doles ilibus sam que nimpore henecum inentibrecili sesequam, in rem re aspercia doloreriat opti corempor raerum que veles doloruptur aliquo esserum aperaecatem quia quodips aectorum consequi de sunt magnis eaquod etus aut que pelit fugia esti dissin cum reratibus santisi quatett, quam ducia voluptium eatias quas dolestior amus rero magnatem es persperspit velti alti volupta ecepeditiae vendi nonsed qui abore, qui sum fugit omnis rehent, volentinia vent. Ehenimaxim eum quo bernatur audignis recti quidem num rem id que velit faccabores excepudam iumque ventiorunt occatenis aute prati ut endae ipiciis magnimust rerio blant ditas mosae rero quatem ipissume prore porum as vitione sciene Heading within body copy • Fugiat re, ipsaeca boritiis sime omnitis as aut laci que porepudi intem voluptatem liquo ea • Dolupti nciuntest molupta tibusdam, commolo dolupta turit, sitia parchil lescienital Secusam dolum asitionsedis volectam, cust distrum re nus exceatem fuga. Ipsae voluptiusam volupt insaeca boritiis sime omnitis as aut laci que porepudi intem

Subheading river teal

Body Copy 90% Gotham Book Black, 11pt with 15pt lead. Borrore percipis expliti umquodi ossunt omniti quoditiissed miliscita sus

Dam voluptati in earum renimi, qui aperat rae pra cuptate nusdaectem. Ut exped ut ea corruptae: derro ipid quam lam quis accabor esciis dend or esciis dendemp orersped unt verum volupta tatem. Nam velles etur aliciataes quatio. Itaeri dolo to vollis autes ipid quis es esernat.



Dam voluptati in earum renimi, qui aperat rae pra cuptate nusdaectem. Ut exped ut ea corruptaessi derro ipid quam lam qu.

Dam voluptati in earum renimi, qui aperat rae pra cuptate

Caption here if needed

12 Kawartha Lakes Title Here

Visit our Brand Portal: https://kawarthalakes.mediavalet.com/ to download the full Brand Book.

Additional Resources

- Create accessible PDFs from Adobe
- Create accessible PDFs from Foxit
- Make your Word documents accessible to people with disabilities from Microsoft
- <u>Document Accessibility from the University of Washington</u>
- Kawartha Lakes Brand Portal

