

### ST. DAVID'S HYDROPONICS LTD.

# Customer Service Policy Providing Goods and Services to People with Disabilities Revised Aug 16, 2023

#### **Our Commitment**

St. David's Hydroponics Ltd strives at all times to provide its goods and services in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. We are also committed to giving people with disabilities the same opportunity to access our goods and services and allowing them to benefit from the same services, in the same place and in a similar way as other customers.

# **Providing Goods and Services to People with Disabilities**

St. David's Hydroponics Ltd is committed to excellence in serving all customers including people with disabilities and we will carry out our functions and responsibilities in the following areas:

#### 1. Communication

We will communicate with people with disabilities in ways that take into account their disability.

### 2. Telephone Services

We are committed to providing accessible telephone service to our customers with disabilities. We will communicate over the phone with customers with disabilities in clear and plain language and speak clearly and slowly. If requested we will use a computer devise with a sign language interpreter.

## 3. Assistive Devices

We are committed to serving people with disabilities who use assistive devices to obtain, use or benefit from our goods and services. We will ensure that our staff is familiar with various assistive devices that may be used by customers with disabilities while accessing our goods and services. We have installed an accessibility widget on our website to further assist people with disabilities.

# 4. Order Acknowledgements and Invoices

We are committed to providing accessible order acknowledgements and invoices to all of our customers. For this reason, order acknowledgements and invoices will be available in the following formats upon request: hard copy, large print, email or other as is reasonably possible. We will answer any questions customers may have about the content of an order acknowledgement or invoice in person, by telephone or by email.

# 5. Use of Service Animals and Support Persons

We are committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal on the parts of our premises that are open to the public and where permitted in accordance with food safety guidelines. We will ensure that all staff is properly trained in how to interact with people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal.

We are committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a support person. Any person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person will be allowed to enter our premises with his or her support person. At no time will a person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person be prevented from having access to his or her support person while on our premises.

## 6. Training for Staff

We will provide training to ALL employees' on accessible customer service and how to interact with people with different disabilities.

Training will be provided during the hiring process. All staff must read our policies, practices and procedures and sign they have read them and return. Training records will be maintained.

Training will include the following:

- Our policies, practices and procedures relating to the customer service standard. The purposes of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the requirements of the customer service standard.
- How to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities
- How to interact with people with disabilities who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a service animal or a support person
- What to do if a person with a disability is having difficulty in accessing our goods and services

All staff will be trained on policies, practices and procedures that affect the way goods and services are provided to people with disabilities. Staff will be trained on an ongoing basis when changes are made to these policies, practices and procedures.

## 7. Feedback Process

The ultimate goal of St. David's Hydroponics Ltd.is to meet and surpass customer expectations while serving customers with disabilities. Comments on our services regarding how well those expectations are being met are welcomed and appreciated. Feedback will be received by St. David's Hydroponics Ltd in any way required so as to be fully accessible. For Example, feedback will be accepted by email, in writing or verbally.

The appropriate Manager or multiple Managers will address any complaints in a timely manner.

Modifications to this or other policies:

We are committed to developing customer service policies that respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Therefore, no changes to this policy will be made before considering the impact on people with disabilities. Any policy of St. David's hydroponics Ltd that does not respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities will be modified or removed.

## Questions about this policy

This policy exists to achieve service excellence to customers with disabilities. If anyone has a question about this policy, or if the purpose of a policy is not understood, an explanation should be provided by, or referred to the General manager. This policy is available to the public at all times.

Toine Van der Knaap

Vice President and General Manager