



**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Monday, October 19, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre

320 Bloomington Rd. West, Aurora, ON. L4G 0M1

Questions? Please complete this form to submit any questions

Land Acknowledgement:

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us. We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it. We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

Pages

1. OPENING PRAYER

Jennifer Sarna

As we gather here today,
we take a moment to express our gratitude for the many blessings in our lives.
Thank you for the gift of community, the support of one another,
and the opportunities to work together in purpose.

We appreciate the food on our tables, the love of family and friends,
and the abundance that surrounds us.

Help us to remember those who may be in need,
and inspire us to share our blessings with others.

Guide our discussions today with wisdom and kindness.
May our decisions reflect our gratitude
and our commitment to serving one another and our community.

Thank you for this time together.
We ask for your blessings on our meeting and our hearts.

Amen

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Aine Connolly

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

8. MOMENT OF INSPIRATION

8.a Dragon's on the Job
Presented by: F. Riley

9. PRESENTATIONS

9.a	Preparing for Life After High School: A Parent's Guide to Navigating Your Child's Certificate Pathway Presented by: M. Liberatore and A. Miraglia	4
9.b	St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS Hearing Centre Link Presented by: C. Booth	12
9.c	October is Learning Disability Awareness Month!	Sara Carnovale
	Video	
9.d	Student Services Department Update	Jennifer Powers
10.	ACTION ITEM(S)	
11.	DISCUSSION ITEM(S)	
12.	INFORMATION ITEM(S)	
12.a	LDAYS October Report	14
12.b	DSAYR First annual fundraising dinner dance	17
12.c	Transition to Highschool information session Flyer attached	18
12.d	Easter Seals Association Monthly update	19
13.	NOTICES OF MOTION	
14.	FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION	
14.a	Future Association Presentations Please contact cindy.mong@ycdsb.ca	
14.b	Inclusive Design for Employment Access: For Diverse Youth	
15.	NEXT MEETING November 9th 2026 at 6:30pm	
16.	ADJOURNMENT	

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who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us .

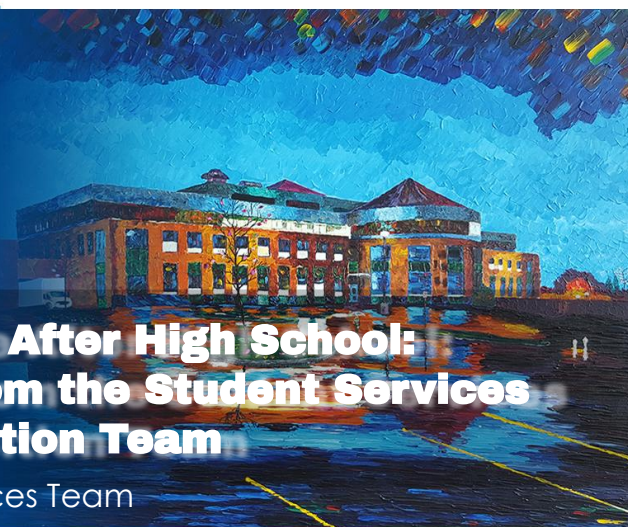
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as stewards of the Earth .

Land Acknowledgement by YCDSB's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Steering Committee adapted with PCS by Alana Miraglia and Elaine Marshal in collaboration with SLP Department



Preparing for Life After High School: A New Module from the Student Services Secondary Transition Team

Secondary Student Services Team

Background

- This module has been developed by the York Catholic District School Board Student Services Department to support parents/guardians and students who will be graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) or a Certificate of Accomplishment as they transition to post-secondary life.
- Through a grant provided by the Ministry of Education, a dedicated Transition Navigation team led the development of the Transition Framework including the development of this module.



Development Team

Linda Lausic

Coordinator of Special Programs- Secondary

Lisa Taylor

Transition Navigator/Work Experience Teacher

Alana Miraglia

Transition Navigator/Intensive Response Team

Maria Liberatore

Work Experience Teacher



Special Education
Learning Together in Christ

Partnerships

- Through our Ministry initiative, we've engaged in ongoing partnerships with a number of community organizations including: March of Dimes, Holland Bloorview, Community Living, and York Support Services Network
- The development of our transition resources have been guided and informed by our community partners.
- YSSN was our principal partner in the develop of this module.





Module Introduction: Target Audience

This module has been developed by the York Catholic District School Board Student Services Department to support parents/guardians and students who will be graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) or a Certificate of Accomplishment as they transition to post-secondary life.

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Preparing for Life After High School: A Parent's Guide to Navigating Your Child's Certificate Pathway

[YouTube Link](#)

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Part 1: Preparing for Life After High School and The YCDSB Transition Framework

YorkCatholicTV
10 • 3mo ago



Part 2: Planning and Programming for a Successful Transition

YorkCatholicTV
10 • 3mo ago



Part 3: Pathway Planning for the Future

YorkCatholicTV
10 • 3mo ago



Part 4: Introduction to Post-Secondary Funding and Specialized Services

YorkCatholicTV
10 • 3mo ago



Part 5: Additional Considerations for Independence, Safety, and Community

YorkCatholicTV
10 • 3mo ago

Topics Covered:

The YCDSB Transition
Framework

Planning And Programming
for a Successful Transition

Pathway Planning
for the Future:
Life After High School

Introduction to
Post-Secondary Funding
and Specialized Services

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The YCDSB Transition Framework

The YCDSB Transition Framework

Planning And Programming

Life After High School

Funding and Specialized Services

YCDSB makes every effort to guide students with Special Education needs to reach optimal independence as they leave high school and seek to live out their God-given potential.

Evidence Informed Practices

Tools and Resources

Programs and Supports for Educators

Partnerships with External Agencies and Services

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The YCDSB Transition Framework

Planning And Programming

Life After High School

Funding and Specialized Services

To support a student with Special Education needs in making the transition to life after high school, whether the transition takes them to work, further education, and/or community living, the transition process must consider...



The YCDSB Transition Framework

Planning And Programming

Life After High School

Funding and Specialized Services

For students with Special Education needs, a collaborative approach increases the probability of a successful post-secondary transition.



PARENTS/GUARDIANS



SCHOOL



COMMUNITY



EDUCATORS

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The YCDSB
Transition
Framework

Planning And
Programming

Life After High
School

Funding and
Specialized
Services

The Four Phases of Transition



Planning And Programming for a Successful Transition

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The YCDSB
Transition
Framework

Planning And
Programming

Life After High
School

Funding and
Specialized
Services

IEP TRANSITION PLAN

TRANSITION MEETINGS

PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

The YCDSB
Transition
Framework

Planning And
Programming

Life After High
School

Funding and
Specialized
Services

The **Transition Planning Resource Folder** is provided to parents/guardians and is a strategic organizational tool designed by the York Catholic District School Board to be used to **collect materials, record transition team members and document meeting dates.**



FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES, PLEASE SEE THE YCDSB POST-SECONDARY CONTACT LIST



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The YCDSB Transition Framework

Planning And Programming

Life After High School

Funding and Specialized Services

The **Transition Meeting Guide Checklist** has been developed by YCDSB to empower students and parents/guardians as they navigate post-secondary transition planning.

Effective transition planning is not a singular event but a continuous process of monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting plans to align with the student's evolving **goals, interests, strengths** and **needs**.

YCDSB TRANSITION MEETING GUIDE FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Annual Transition Meetings are required for all students in the RLS/SCP (non-credit) programs and are separate from SPSC review meetings. Please use this template to guide your discussion and ensure that an IEP is completed to document topics discussed and next steps. A copy of this guide should be available for the current Special Education Teacher. Please ensure notes remain accessible to changing staff.

Student: _____ Student Number: _____

Transition Goal/Planned Pathway: _____

Meeting Dates:

- ☐ G: 1 - closest date of meeting
- ☐ G: 10 - closest date of meeting
- ☐ G: 11 - closest date of meeting
- ☐ G: 12 - closest date of meeting
- ☐ G: 12 + 1 - closest date of meeting
- ☐ G: 12 + 2 - closest date of meeting
- ☐ G: 12 + 3 - closest date of meeting

Transition Team Members: _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

INDICATE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO ORIGINAL TRANSITION PLAN (if applicable)

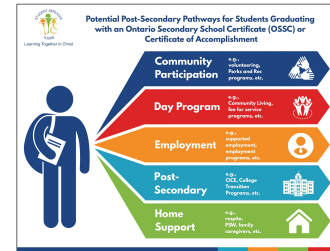
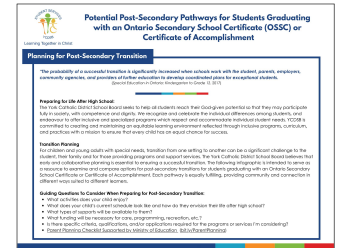
The YCDSB Transition Framework

Planning And Programming

Life After High School

Funding and Specialized Services

The YCDSB developed the **Potential Post-Secondary Pathways** visual guide to highlight five distinct post-secondary pathways: **Community Participation, Day Programs, Post-Secondary Education, and Home Support**.



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Pathway Planning for the Future: Life After High School

The YCDSB Transition Framework

Planning And Programming

Life After High School

Funding and Specialized Services

Potential Post-Secondary Pathways for Students Graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) or Certificate of Accomplishment



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The YCDSB
Transition
Framework

Community/School/Home

Community plays an important role not only in life after high school but life during high school.

Community activities help foster a sense of belonging, social connection, and begin to build skills of independence.

Planning and trialing different activities can help build familiarity, begin to create support networks, and give a glimpse of what life after high school might look like.



The YCDSB
Transition
Framework

Planning And
Programming

Life After High
School

Funding and
Specialized
Services

Maintaining a strong social and support network after high school is an important part of creating purpose, connection, and a true sense of belonging in your child's life.

How will you plan for your child to stay connected in the community?

FAMILY

FRIENDS

NEIGHBOURS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

"Being in community" is not just about where we live – it is about our human need to belong and participate with others in families, neighbourhoods, networks and groups.
Creating a Good Life A Guide on Person-Directed Planning in Community. The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario, 2006.

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Introduction to Post-Secondary Funding and Specialized Services

The YCDSB
Transition
Framework

Planning And
Programming

Life After High
School

Funding and
Specialized
Services

Funding at a Glance

Reimbursement
Funding Over 18

Passport Program
(Applied through DSO)

Direct Funding
Over 18

Ontario Disability Support Program
(ODSP)

Disability Related
Tax Credits

Disability Tax Credit (DTC), Canada Disability Benefit (CDB), Goods Service Tax (GST)/ Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

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Tax Credits



**Disability Tax Credit
(DTC)**

**Registered Disability
Savings Plans (RDSP)**

**Canada Disability
Benefit (CDB)**

GST/HST Credit

For Additional Support or Information...

Many organizations offer resources and support for funding applications and financial planning. Consider viewing a webcast, signing up for a web series, or checking out a resource library.

**P4P: Safe & Secure
Planning for Adulthood**

DSO: Resource Hub

**YSSN: What's Next?
Life After High School**

**ConnectABILITY: Financial
and Legal Resources**

In summary...

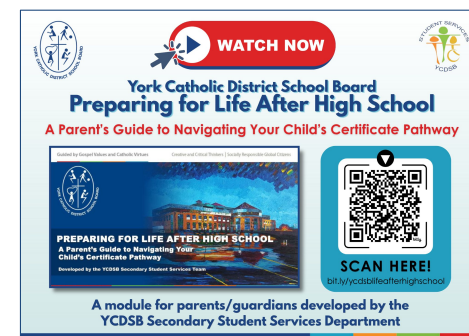
- Transition planning is an ongoing cycle of preparing, implementing, and reviewing to align with a student's changing needs and goals.
- Success is significantly increased through the collaboration of the student, parents/guardians, educators, and community partners.
- YCDSB's ultimate goal is to guide students toward reaching their God-given potential and achieving the highest level of independence possible through individualized planning.
- Post-secondary life can include many distinct and equally valuable paths such as college, employment, day programs, home support, or community participation.
- Early action, such as applying for adult funding (DSO/ODSP) and utilizing available community resources, will help ensure a well-prepared transition.

Ultimately, a meaningful life after high school is rooted in belonging and staying connected to the community.

Module Distribution

The module will be distributed:

- With Semester 1 IEPs
- By School Messenger email to parents/guardians
- At the Transition Symposium in May
- On the YCDSB Student Services Secondary Transitions webpage



Transition Events

Transition Inservice November 19th

Day Program Site Visit for Teachers

Transition Symposium May 6th, 2027



Thank You!

**"For every student is God's handiwork,
created with purpose and prepared for good works."**
Ephesians 2:10

Thank you for all those who have worked hard to support this collaborative effort including:

- Ministry of Education
- Community Agencies and Partners
- Students & Parents
- Clare MacDonald, Transitional Planner, DSO/YSSN
- Anthony Volpe, Special Education Software Specialist
- Special Education Departments

Through the ongoing partnership of school, home and community, we continue to provide successful transition support for students with disabilities.

St. Max Hearing Centre

A Phased Approach to Closure

Special Education Advisory Committee
October 19, 2026



YCDSB Hearing Service Delivery The Home School Model

Inclusive local support for every learner

132 Students supported in their home schools.

Collaborative partnerships with school teams.

Consistent access to Hearing Services across all schools.



St. Max Secondary Hearing Centre

St. Max Hearing Centre

St. Max Secondary Hearing Centre
Current Centre Enrolment & Usage

1.0 FTE

Full-Time Dedicated Staff

5

Regularly Supported Students

2

Students Accessing the Centre Occasionally



Board Transportation

Provided for students enrolled in the Centre.

PLAN

A Phased Approach to Closure

Closure tied exclusively to current students' natural graduation and departure.



No new admissions

Effective immediately.



Continuity of support

Currently enrolled students supported until they graduate or leave.



Final closure

At the end of the school year following the last student's departure.
Anticipated June 2029

St. Max Hearing Centre

Rationale for Closure



Strategic Direction Alignment

Reflects the Board's direction toward inclusive school-based supports through the Home School Model.



Building School-Based Capacity

Strengthens collaboration with school teams to support students' learning and participation in their home schools.



Enrolment & Model Sustainability

Current enrolment informs consideration of the long-term sustainability of a dedicated centralized program.



Evolving Service Delivery

Builds on the Board's previous transitions from centralized programs toward support within students' local school communities.

Ongoing Supports for Students with Hearing Needs



Continuity for Current Students

Currently enrolled students will continue to be supported until they graduate or leave the program.



Ongoing Hearing Services

Hearing Services will continue to support students across YCDSB, including support with hearing equipment/technology.



Communication with Families

Families will be kept informed as the centre moves toward closure.



Collaboration with School Teams

Working together to support students' learning and participation in their home schools.

Questions

SEAC Reps - LDAYS Monthly Report - October 2026

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month!

1 in 10 Canadians has a learning disability. This October, let's raise awareness, celebrate strengths, and break the stigma. October 15 is Learning Disabilities Awareness Day, a great opportunity for schools, families, and communities to start conversations and share resources. Host a presentation, invite LDAYS to your school, or learn more through our resources.

[Watch our YouTube LD MONTH Playlist](#)

[Listen to our Plugged In Podcast](#)

[Get Involved: LD Awareness Campaign Information](#)

[LD Month Awareness Month Campaign Package - 2026](#) | York Region and Simcoe County

[LD Month Campaign Social Media Kit - 2026](#) | Need a PNG or JPEG version? Email us to request the files.

Questions or want to get involved? Contact us at info@ldays.org | 905-884-7933 x5

Fall 2025 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Skill Builders Adventure Club (Ages 7–12)

LDAYS is bringing our popular social skills groups to the **City of Vaughan, Town of Aurora, and Town of Newmarket!** In partnership with these local municipalities, children can build confidence, friendship skills, communication, and emotional awareness in a fun, supportive small-group setting. Programs are based on the **PEERS® curriculum** and led by trained professionals.

Locations & Dates:

Check the Fall, Winter, and Spring Recreation Guide in the Town of Aurora, Town of Newmarket and City of Vaughan for program details and registration information.

Vaughan

Tuesdays, October 13 - December 1 | 4:30–5:30 PM

North Thornhill Community Centre

[Register through the City of Vaughan](#)

Newmarket

Mondays, October 19–November 23 | 6:00–7:00 PM

Recreation Youth Centre & telMAX Indoor Skate Park

[Register through the Town of Newmarket](#)

Contact: Raja at 905-884-7933 x7 | raja.tulloch@ldays.org

Fall Study Skills Program (NEW)

An in-person small group program for students ages 14–17 with learning disabilities, offering academic support, homework help, and engaging activities focused on executive functioning, learning strategies, and confidence.

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays | 4:00–6:00 PM

October 13–December 10, 2026 | 9030 Leslie Street, Unit 216

Contact us at 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | tutoringservices@ldays.org
[Learn more & register](#)

Homework & Beyond (Ages 10–12)

A drop-in program that blends academic help with social skills coaching in a relaxed, supportive space. *Outside the 10–12 age range? No problem, we'll arrange an intake call!*

Wednesdays | November 4th to December 2nd, 2026 | 4:30 - 6:30 PM
King Township Public Library | 1970 King Rd, King City

Contact: Raja at 905-884-7933 x7 | raja.tulloch@ldays.org
[Learn more & register](#)

SoAR Mindful Transition Program

A transitional program for Grades 7–8 & 11–12 students with LD/ADHD to build skills, manage stress, and strengthen self-advocacy as they prepare for high school, post-secondary, or life beyond

Contact: Raja at 905-884-7933 x7 | raja.tulloch@ldays.org
[Information on SoAR Elementary](#)
[Information on SoAR High School](#)

Level Up Tutoring (Grades 1–12)

Personalized virtual support in math and literacy, tailored for students with LDs or ADHD. Boost confidence, build skills, and support your child's learning journey with 1:1 expert tutoring.

Contact us at 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | tutoringservices@ldays.org
[Learn more & register](#)

Reading Rocks & JUMP Math (Ages 8–14)

Targeted, 1:1 or small-group literacy and math interventions for students who are significantly behind in their curriculum. Programs run 8 weeks, twice a week. Fee assistance available.

Contact us at 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | tutoringservices@ldays.org
[Learn more & register](#)

Counselling Program: Strategies for Life (Age 13+) Is your child doing everything right, but still struggling? Give them someone in their corner. LDAYS' one-to-one counselling program offers warm, personalized support for individuals ages 13 and up, helping them manage school stress, build social confidence, develop coping strategies, and feel understood.

[Book a free consult call Today](#) and see how counselling can help your child thrive. *Sliding scale fees available.*

Questions? Contact Madison at 905-884-7933 x8 | Madison.alexandra@ldays.org

Educational Presentations & Speaking Engagements

LD 101 Awareness Presentations – For Schools & Families

Book our 1-hour, interactive sessions for teachers, students, or parents to better understand learning disabilities and how to support all our learners. (In-Person or Virtual)

Book today: 905-884-7933 ext. 5 | info@ldays.org

Top inquiries from parents:

- How to engage and work with the teacher to ensure their accommodations and learning needs are met. What can I do if the school cannot provide all the accommodations necessary, not because they are not compliant, but because they have limited resources?

Thank you for your ongoing support; we appreciate all of the hard work you do!

fundraiser

dinner ★ dance



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

5:00PM - 9:00PM

AURORA COMMUNITY CENTER - AUDITORIUM

\$21/PERSON

Student Services will be hosting a

Transition to High School In-Person Parent/Guardian Information Session

**For parents/guardians of students in grades 7 and 8 who are
currently accessing Special Education supports**

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Event Details:

**Catholic Education Centre
320 Bloomington Rd W, Aurora
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

If you would like to attend this session **IN-PERSON** or receive a copy of the recorded session, please complete the registration form linked in the box below.



Topics include...

- the transition process from elementary to secondary;
- the nature of Special Education programs and supports at the secondary level;
- requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), the Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) or the Certificate of Accomplishment;
- types of courses, specialized programs and post-secondary pathways available to students with identified learning needs; and
- other key information to support the transition process.



Please register using this [LINK](#)

**Registration deadline:
November 16, 2026**

Mission

With Jesus Christ as our model, we provide all students with a Catholic education rooted in equity, well-being and learning.

Vision

A recognized leader in Catholic education committed to inclusion, excellence and innovation that develops socially responsible global citizens.

Values Catholicity

Fiscal Responsibility Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Integrity Respect
Excellence

Strategic Commitments

Catholic Faith
Equity and Inclusion
Student Achievement
Well-Being

Special Education Advisory Committee Association Update

Association: Easter Seals Ontario

Date: October 2026

Key Updates

- The Celebrity Hockey Classic in support of Easter Seals Ontario is coming to our communities! Play alongside former NHL greats, attend an exclusive VIP draft party and have fun while raising money for kids and youth with physical disabilities. Sign up and/or support your friends through the links below.
 - [Brampton – November 5 at the CAA Centre](#)
 - [York-Simcoe – November 13 at the Magna Centre](#)
 - [Brad May Special \(Oakville\) – December 4 at the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex](#)
- Easter Seals Ontario develops and maintains a [suite of resources to help parents navigate the IPRC process and their children's IEPs](#). Please feel free to share with parents in your networks.
- Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Easter Seals Ontario is proud to provide over \$45,000 of scholarships for 33 outstanding students who are attending postsecondary education in the 2026-27 school year. Hear from a couple of them:
 - "Because of your generosity, I can begin my studies in Communications and Media, with a minor in Human Rights at Carleton University. It gives me hope for my future, where I plan to work in advocacy and challenge the systemic barriers disabled people face in day-to-day life. Your support inspires me to work harder and shows me that people believe I can and will do great things in life." – Colette Cousins
 - "Your generosity and continued support [will allow me to] pursue my Bachelor of Arts, History degree at Carleton University, [where] I am entering my last year of study in 2026/27 and hope to pursue a career in writing or museum work. Thank you for making my academic dreams and goals a reality in meaningful ways." – Graham Baskin
- Our partners at Spinal Cord Injury Ontario convened aviation, accessibility and disability advocacy experts to discuss the future of accessible air travel in Canada. The panel explored current challenges, emerging opportunities and practical solutions to help create safer, more inclusive travel experiences for people with disabilities. Topics included protecting mobility devices, airport accessibility, passenger support and ongoing industry efforts to improve air travel. [Watch the discussion here.](#)