

# NOZHEM: FIRST PEOPLES' PERFORMANCE SPACE VENUE GUIDE



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## ACCESSIBILITY VENUE GUIDE FOR NOZHEM: FIRST PEOPLES' PERFORMANCE SPACE

### PUBLIC ENERGY ACCESSIBILITY VISION:

Public Energy Performing Arts is committed to removing barriers to those who want to engage with the performing arts: as audiences, artists and administrators. If you have questions about the accessibility of our performances, workshops or digital events, please direct them to:

[admin@publicenergy.ca](mailto:admin@publicenergy.ca)

Beyond our advertised accessibility initiatives, we are happy to make additional accommodations on request.

### NOZHEM: FIRST PEOPLES' PERFORMANCE SPACE:

Nozhem: First Peoples' Performance Space, (FPPS) is located on the first floor of Enwayaang building. Room 101, at the end of the long passageway on the north-west side of the building.

Nozhem: FPPS has seating for one hundred people, and is unique in that, unlike traditional Western style performance spaces, this theatre is intended to be used "for ceremony, as a vessel to pour forth and nurture Aboriginal oral tradition, language, and knowledge."

The relatively small size of the venue means that audience members are invited to develop an up-close and personal relationship with the many artists, singers, dancers, and performers, making Nozhem: FPPS a rare gem on the University's campus.

Nozhem: FPPS is the only publicly funded Indigenous Performance Space in Canada.

Nozhem First Peoples Performance Space at Gzowski College.  
2510 Pioneer Rd. Trent University - East Bank  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9L 1Z8  
Phone: 705-748-1011 x 7220



CHANIE WENJACK  
SCHOOL FOR INDIGENOUS STUDIES



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UNIVERSITY

## CITY TRANSIT RIDERS:

Transit riders can use a variety of buses to get to the theatre, but the closest drop off point is at 1 Gzowski Way and can be reached by taking the No. 7, Lansdowne, or the No. 9, Weller to get there. This will likely require transfers, but this is also the best option for travellers.

Take either the No. 7 or No. 9 to Trent University, 1 Gzowski Way, it is the final stop for both routes before turning around and heading on their opposite runs.



Turn right [north] once you debark, then turn left [west] along the front of the building. Please note there are five large stone slabs, evenly spaced, along the cement pathway. They are there to prevent vehicles from driving along the path. However, they are tripping hazards for those with little to no vision. Turn left again [south] at the entrance of the building, the automatic door button is on the right.



Take the elevator, to the right of the main doors, to get to Level 1. Turn right off the elevator and pass the snack bar, turn left at the yellow hallway and follow it to the end to get to the Nozhem:FPPS



Peterborough Accessible Community Transit users can have the PACT bus drop them off at the same location, 1 Gzowski Way. Or at the accessible drop-off point located on the west side of the theatre off Nassau Mills/River Road. Please contact [admin@publicenergy.ca](mailto:admin@publicenergy.ca), ahead of time, if using this drop-off point.



## DRIVING AND PARKING:

There is parking available directly east across from the bus stop in Lot U, lot number 8888, there is also overflow parking in lot X which is located across, and over a field, from the Level 1 entrance for the theatre. These are Pay and Display lots. Rates are available on the [TRENT UNIVERSITY WEBSITE](http://www.trentu.ca). There is a Pay and Display machine located in lot U, only. Either a Visa or Mastercard is required to pay. Alternatively you can download and use the [HOTSPOT](http://www.hotspotparking.com) parking app to pay for parking.

For Lot U, you can exit the parking lot and cross the street at the crosswalk near the bus stop, turn right past the bus stop and then turn left along the front of the building.

There is accessible parking available at the north end of the U lot.

There is an accessible drop off point on the west side of the building, this area has no parking available and is only meant for drop-offs and pick-ups.

Visitors can either follow the pathway to the south to the main entrance, or to the north to a gravel covered area at the rear of the performance space, this area provides access for performers and if needed larger access for individuals with large mobility devices.

If a visitor wishes to use this area, they should contact Public Energy ahead of time at [admin@publicenergy.ca](mailto:admin@publicenergy.ca), to make arrangements.



## ELEVATOR:

The elevator from the second level of the building where the bus stop is located, is to the right of the main entrance, the walls on either side of the doors are painted red.

The elevator buttons are raised and have braille on them, the summoning buttons are to the right of the doors as you face them, the buttons inside the elevator are on the right wall as you face the doors.



Please note that the button to summon the elevator on Level 1 is right below a sanitizer dispenser, this can be confusing for individuals with low or no vision.

The button has braille announcing the level, but it is directly beneath the dispenser making it slightly difficult to read.



The elevator is small, only one mobility device user will be able to fit inside the elevator with a support person, we suggest that scooter and wheelchair users back into the elevator.

The elevator is very slow and is very quiet, be patient while you wait to get off.

## THEATRE ACCESS:

There is only one main entrance to the theatre and it is inside the building at Nozhem: First Peoples' Performance Space at Gzowski College.

The theatre has double doors and is large enough to allow any kind of accessibility device to enter, the door handles are knobs rather than lever handles, so someone may need to open the doors for you, as there is no automatic door button for the theatre space.

A table for tickets will be set up just outside the theatre doors just to the left of the buildings main entrance.



There is also an entrance through the rear of the theatre where performers get ready (backstage). This entrance is located to the north of the drop-off area, there is a slight step up, about 2 inches, and gravel, so this may not be the best way in for someone using a mobility device.

There is also an emergency exit located on the north side of the theatre.



## SLIDING SCALE TICKET PRICES:

Public Energy Performing Arts offers sliding scale ticket pricing with most shows starting at \$5. This applies to all ages, from students to seniors. We believe that cost should not be a prohibiting factor when accessing the performing arts. Thanks to our sponsors and donors for making this possible.

## VOLUNTEERS:

Public Energy or Nozhem: FPPS staff and volunteers will be in the lobby prior to the show. You can recognize Public Energy volunteers by badges, which have the Public Energy logo on them.  
Nozhem: FPPS staff or volunteers will be positioned behind the box office ticketing table. You can ask any volunteer for assistance before, during or after a show. We will be happy to help.



Many Public Energy staff and volunteers have participated in the Time in My Shoes program and know how to act as a sighted guide.

## WASHROOMS:

There are men's and women's washrooms along the yellow hallway to the right of the main entrance of the building, this means you will be heading away from the theatre's main doors. The washrooms are on the left side [north] of the wall as you walk towards the elevator.

There are large print signs, but currently no braille signs, women's is on the left, men's is on the right.



Inside the men's washroom a row of sinks is to the left of the door, they have lever handles and plenty of clearance beneath them for mobility device users. The soap dispensers are on either end of the sinks on the left and right walls. Along the right wall as you face the sinks there are hand dryers.



To the right of the dryers there are urinals along the left side of the back wall from the entrance, the furthest to the left is a at a shorter height, There are 2 stalls on the right side of the rear wall with the accessible stall on the far right, this stall is not very large and some mobility device users will have difficulty closing the door and turning around in the space.



The women's washroom is a mirror image of the men's washroom, but has additional stalls in place of urinals, and the sink counter is slightly higher.

There are also washrooms beside the snack bar near the elevator.



## THEATRE SPACE AND STAGE:

The performance space is one large room with retractable bleachers on the right-hand wall [east] as you enter the theatre. Depending on the type of performance, the theatre may be set up in different ways.

The bleachers allow for enough space in front of them for both chairs and mobility devices, the stairs on the bleachers have tactile tape on them so they can both be felt and seen.

The theatre space is one open room with no raised stage. The maximum capacity of the theatre is 100 seats. There are 80 bleacher seats with an additional 20 seats that can be set up on the floor.

The number of seats per performance may change depending on the set up.



## QUIET SPACE AND SENSORY KITS:

The designated quiet space at Nozhem: FPPS is located directly outside the theatre's main entrance. There are two long couches available to sit on, one along the north wall and another opposite it along the south wall. From this area there is access to the washrooms as well as the doors leading outside of the building for anyone who may need a breath of fresh air.

During Public Energy performances, a sensory kit will be available for guests. This kit includes: sunglasses or a visor, a stress ball, ear plugs, a fidget spinner and tangle, and may contain a venue map. We ask that the items be returned at the end of the performance; however, you can keep the ear plugs. All other items will be sanitized and reused at future relaxed performances.



## RELAXED PERFORMANCES:

Relaxed performances make theatre spaces more comfortable and welcoming to audience members with autism spectrum disorders, sensory and communication disorders or learning disabilities. These performances will include a visual story guide for visitors to help them prepare for the show. This guide walks a visitor through all aspects of a relaxed performance from start to finish.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR NOZHEM THEATRE:

Nozhem First People's Performance Space has smoke detectors with visual indicators for guests and performers who are hard of hearing or deaf.

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please stay calm and follow these instructions.

Exit the theatre to the left and turn left towards the main doors, exit to the right through the main doors and walk to the parking lot across the street, please remain in this space until Emergency Response Teams arrive and give you further instructions.

Guests may also exit through the emergency exit or backstage area through the doors to the accessible drop off space, find one of the yellow poles with a blue light on top and wait for instructions.

If you are experiencing a medical emergency yourself during a show, please ask for help and a Public Energy Staff or volunteer will assist you in whatever way they can either by assisting you directly, or by contacting Emergency Services.

Our staff and volunteers are here for your safety.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The land on which Public Energy works is in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagig and Chippewa Nations. Our immediate area, known as Nogojiwanong (Ojibwa for "place at the end of the rapids"), has been a meeting place and a place to tell stories for thousands of years.

Public Energy acknowledges the Anishinaabeg for their care taking of these lands and waters and recognizes our responsibility to peaceably share and care for them. We are honoured to be working with Indigenous artists and providing a platform for their voices to be heard and respected.