



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Environmental Scan

Our goal is to develop a strategic plan to assist organizations to achieve and implement the main principle underlying the ODA that is, that people with a disability should be able to experience and enjoy the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community. The development of a Strategic Plan to achieve this goal will be accomplished through a highly communicative process with stakeholders within the Corporation and with those agencies and individuals actively involved in the disability sector.

Our Customers

Citizens of York Region	Conservation Authorities
Regional Departments	District Health Council and Community Care Access Centre
York Regional Police	York Region Community Safety Village
Area Municipalities	Municipal Electrical Utilities
District School Boards	Other critical service providers

Accessibility Statement

The purpose of our Strategic Plan is to provide the framework within which to: align the goals of York Region's organizations with the Region's Emergency Management Program responsibilities and the goals of the ODA; enable the Emergency Management Branch to fulfil its social obligations as required by the ODA and the Region's Corporate Disability Strategy; and, ensure the needs of people with a disability are considered in future emergency planning activities. The Strategic Plan is a means of identifying areas of potential discrimination in the delivery of products, services and facilities (including buildings) and for generating an implementation plan to redress the instances of discrimination which are revealed through the audit process.

Accessibility Achievements – 2003 / 2004

The 2004 Plan was not completed. However it is underway. The Conference organization planning for the first-ever in Canada Emergency Preparedness Conference for people with disabilities and special needs has been completed. Elizabeth Davis, Executive Director of the National Organization on Disabilities Emergency Preparedness initiative in the US will be playing a key role at our conference, a long with others (Canadian Red Cross, staff from Florida who set up emergency centres for those with disabilities and special needs during the hurricanes this fall).

Barrier Identification for 2005

By-laws, policies and practices to be reviewed	Methods to be used to identify the barrier	Timing ¹ (When will this be completed)
Emergency management and public safety related by-laws and policies.	The Branch will: • identify and partner with government organizations, representatives of home based-care agencies, residential healthcare facilities, emergency responders and advocacy groups for the disabled through a one day conference. • work with local disability organizations to identify clusters of people with disabilities who either live or work in the Region as a follow up to the conference. • involve the disabled community in the emergency plan needs assessment process.	2005

¹The timing for addressing a barrier does not necessarily have to be set within 2005. The nature of the action may be *phased* in over a number of months or years depending on the resources and priorities of the Department.

Barriers That Will Be Addressed for 2005

Barrier identified ²	Barrier type ³	What will be gained by removing or preventing this barrier? ⁴	Means to prevent/remove the barrier ⁵	Indicators of success ⁶	Timing (When will this be completed?) ⁷
To be developed based on outcomes from conference and consultation process.					

²Indicate where the barrier was found. For example: was it in a program, service, by-law, policy, practice, or facility?

³Indicate the type(s) of barrier (physical, architectural, informational, communication, attitudinal, technological, policy/practice).

⁴Indicate how accessibility will be enhanced by removing or preventing this barrier.

⁵Describe what action will be taken to remove and/or prevent the barrier.

⁶Indicate how customer service will be improved by removing or preventing this barrier. Also indicate any other

measure(s) that will be used to determine whether or not the department was successful in removing and/or preventing this barrier.

⁷The timing for addressing a barrier does not necessarily have to be set within 2005; the nature of the action may be *phased in* over a number of months or years depending on the resources and priorities of the Department.