

## MEMORANDUM

TO: York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Wilf Morley, Chair  
York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE: October 27, 2004

RE: **Report Back from the York Region AAC Chairs Meeting  
October 7, 2004**

---

On Thursday October 7, 2004 York Region hosted the first AAC Chairs Meeting. Every municipality participated in the meeting and several sent staff representatives in addition to the AAC Chair and/or Vice-Chair. Unfortunately Whitchurch-Stouffville was unable to send any representatives to the meeting so I played a dual role of York Region AAC member and member of the Whitchurch-Stouffville AAC. Kirsten Hill also participated in the meeting and Bob Hunn was present as the Chair of the Markham AAC.

### **Overview**

Overall the tone of the meeting was extremely friendly and cooperative and the meeting was successful in the following ways:

- First, the participants were very pleased that York Region and the York Region AAC took the initiative to plan and hold the meeting and the group would like to continue to meet in the future.
- Secondly, the support shown by the Region was noted and appreciated by all the participants. This in particular included the welcoming remarks made by the Regional Chair whose attendance with the Director of Government Relations showed the Region's interest in and commitment to these issues.
- Participants were able to exchange information, share knowledge and learn from presentations provided by Regional staff. The presentation from York Region Transit was very well received and many of the participants were very interested in learning about new initiatives underway in both the Conventional Transit and Mobility Plus Services.

**Next Steps**

The group expressed a keen interest in continuing to stay in touch and work with one another on common issues such as AAC recruitment and accessibility standards. As York Region AAC Chair, I committed to working with the Region to look into ways of how this could be done. A commitment was also reiterated by the Region to share its analysis of the new ODA legislation with the local municipalities and perhaps arrange a meeting at the appropriate time to discuss the new legislation in detail. The timing of this workshop is dependent on the passage of the new legislation. The Regional Solicitor also offered to share information with local municipal legal staff on the new legislation since it promises to be far more complex than the current ODA legislation.

It was very interesting to have the opportunity to meet with the AAC members of the other municipalities. We once again had strong support from regional staff including Joann Simmons, Joy Hulton, Cordelia Abankwa-Harris and Monica Bryce. I am looking forward to continuing to be in contact with the other AAC Chairs and members.

Thank you.

Wilf Morley  
York Region AAC Chair