



Community and Health Services Department
Office of the Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Services and Housing Committee Members
York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Joann Simmons, Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: April 10, 2008

RE: **New Appointment to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee**

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Regional Chairman Fisch to inform you of the appointment of a new citizen member to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). This appointment was made because of a recent vacancy on the Committee, and will ensure that the York Region AAC continues to meet the requirements under the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA).

As per the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, the Regional Chairman is authorized to appoint replacement members. The person appointed by Regional Chairman Fisch to the York Region AAC is:

Diana Hordo – a Master of Critical Disabilities Studies student at York University and a resident of Vaughan.

This appointment is effective immediately and will remain in effect until November 2010.

The York Region AAC assists Regional Council in improving opportunities for persons with disabilities by advising on the implementation of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA). The AODA will eventually replace the ODA however, while the ODA and the AODA exist simultaneously, the York Region AAC will be required to perform a dual role in York Region.

Under the ODA, the York Region AAC is responsible for advising Committee and Council each year on its annual Accessibility Plan, which focuses on the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to people with disabilities. Under the AODA, the York Region AAC will advise Committee and Council on the Region's compliance with the accessibility standards and in the preparation of accessibility reports.

The appointment of this new member will be a valuable addition to the AAC as it continues its work to assist Council in realizing its vision of providing access to Regional programs and services for all York Region residents.

LD/lac

Copy to: B. Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer
L. Bigioni, Director of Government Relations and Executive Assistant to the
Regional Chairman
J. Hulton, Regional Solicitor
C. Abankwa-Harris, Director, Policy and Program Support Services
B. Bridle, Committee Coordinator