



DRAFT 2006 Accessibility Plan

Planning and Development Services Department

Environmental Scan

The Planning and Development Services Department provides accessibility at public meetings by identifying and removing barriers where possible to remove and/or reduce physical, architectural, information and communication barriers. In addition, the Department ensures information and communication barriers are minimized through the wide array of publications and web application services that we provide.

Our Customers

The Planning and Development Services Department customers and partnerships include Regional Council, the residents of York Region, Regional and area municipal politicians, other Regional departments, area municipalities, development industry, businesses of York Region, public agencies (such as school boards, health and safety organizations and conservation authorities) and human service providers.

Accessibility Statement

The Planning and Development Services Department will commit to serving all of our customers to the best of our ability, taking into consideration their accessibility needs and our ability to address those needs. Where a barrier can be removed with existing resources - we plan to do so. When a barrier is identified that requires the co-operation of resources of another corporate department (i.e. Clerks Office, Property Services, etc.) we will work in partnership to minimize and/or eliminate barriers to access.

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Progress Report on Accessibility Achievements - 2005

Barrier Identified ¹	Barrier Type ²	Disability Type ³	How the barrier was addressed ⁴
Making it Easier to Move Around the Region			
Accessibility information in York Region's Visitor's Guide.	Physical Informational	Physical	2005 Visitor's Guide included information on wheelchair accessibility if voluntarily provided by tourism business. Inclusion of accessibility information for all tourism businesses was postponed until HRSDC funding to implement Premier Ranked Infrastructure Audit received.
Making it Easier to Participate in Regional Government			
Public meeting notification practices and location selections.	Informational Physical	Physical	Continuous review of location lists for public meetings
Regional Official Plan format and web site.	Policy/Practice	Sensory	Website made more accessible for people with visual impairments
Changing Attitudes and Raising Awareness			
Awareness of need for accessibility resources in York Region Small Business Centre	Informational/Attitudinal	All types	In the Fall of 2005, the York Region Small Business Centre hosted a conference on accessibility and inclusivity to raise awareness within the business community of the need to comply with provincial legislation and to identify ways that businesses can meet accessibility requirements.

¹ Gives a description of the barrier and indicates where the barrier was found. For example was the barrier in a program, service, by-law, policy, practice or facility

² Indicates the type(s) of barrier (physical, architectural, informational, communicational, attitudinal, technological, policy/practice)

³ Indicates the type(s) of disability affected by the barrier (physical, sensory, cognitive or other)

⁴ Describes the action taken to identify, remove or prevent the barrier

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Barrier Identification for 2006

By-laws, policies and practices to be reviewed	Methods to be used to identify the barrier	Timing ⁵ (When will this be completed)
Making it Easier to Move Around the Region		
Accessibility information published in York Region's Visitor Guide	Premier Ranked Tourism Infrastructure Audit 2005/2006 will gather information on accessibility of tourism attractions	2006/2007

⁵ The timing for addressing a barrier does not necessarily have to be set within 2006.
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.

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Barriers That Will Be Addressed for 2006

Barrier Identified ⁶	Barrier Type ⁷	What will be gained by removing or preventing this barrier? ⁸	Means to prevent/remove the barrier ⁹	Indicators of success ¹⁰	Timing ¹¹ (When will this be completed)
Making it Easier to Move Around the Region					
Access to Regional Heritage Sites	Physical Architectural Communicational	Will assist heritage sites, museums and historical societies reduce barriers and increase accessibility	In partnership with Ontario Historical society, host a workshop called <i>Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible</i>	Attendance at workshop and participant's satisfaction	Jan 2006
Making it Easier to Participate in Regional Government					
Accessibility to Geomatics maps and products	Informational Physical Technological	Geomatics products that are more easily accessed by people with physical disabilities	Use of the most legible and largest fonts possible on maps. Avoidance of the combined colours red and green on maps. Alternate scroll-over option to allow test-to-speech functionality on YorkAtlas icons, buttons and links. Maps created in Adobe Acrobat 6.0 that can be downloaded with features such as intelligent navigation, test-to-speech and mouse less keyboards.	Continuous incorporation of practices in development of all new products	Ongoing

⁶ Indicate where the barrier was found. For example: was it in a program, service, by-law, policy, practice, or facility?

⁷ Indicate the type(s) of barrier (physical, architectural, informational, communicational, attitudinal, technological, policy/practice).

⁸ Indicate how accessibility will be enhanced by removing or preventing this barrier.

⁹ Describe what action will be taken to remove and/or prevent the barrier.

¹⁰ Indicate 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.

¹¹ The timing for addressing a barrier does not necessarily have to be set within 2006; 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.

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Changing Attitudes and Raising Awareness					
Increase Awareness of staff to the needs of persons with disabilities through staff participation in inclusivity training	Attitudinal	Will provide staff with an introduction to the information and tools to effectively and respectfully serve persons with disabilities	Approx., 40 -50 employees in the Planning and Developmental Services Department will participate in the inclusivity and accessibility training course being offered corporately	Staff Awareness is raised and staff report having a better understanding of the needs of people with disabilities	2006

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