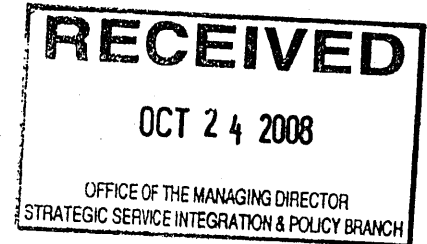




Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

October 23, 2008

Cindy Gorlewski
Chair Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee
c/o Anita Moore, Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328, STN MAIN NEWMARKET
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7



Dear Ms Gorlewski:

Re: AAC Representation at Emergency Preparedness Exercises

Thank-you for your letter dated September 15, 2008 regarding the participation of members of local Accessibility Advisory Committees in emergency preparedness simulations and training. York Region Emergency Management recognizes the importance of partnerships with a multitude of community stakeholders and organizations.

Recent initiatives include a presentation to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) on April 23, 2008 outlining the York Region Emergency Management Program. It was beneficial to have participation by YRAAC members in the evacuation and reception centre exercise which the City of Vaughan held on September 16, 2008. The aim was to practice procedures and train staff in setting up and operating a reception centre, including assisting people with disabilities.

York Region Emergency Management will continue to engage our municipal and external partners including people with disabilities and special needs. We acknowledge the contribution and value that people with disabilities and special needs bring to exercises and will include them in future reception centre exercises.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me at (905) 830-4444 extension 1229 or at loretta.chandler@york.ca

Sincerely,

Loretta Chandler
Manager, York Region Emergency Management

LC/mf

Copy to: Cordelia Abankwa-Harris