



Community and Health Services
Policy and Program Support Services Branch

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

FROM: Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Director, Policy and Program Support Services

DATE: November 22, 2007

RE: **2008 Draft Departmental Accessibility Plans - Feedback**

Attached you will find the list of questions, comments and feedback provided to each department following the presentations of their draft 2008 Accessibility Plans at the November 21st meeting of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee. Please review to ensure that we have captured your contributions. If you have further questions, comments or feedback, we would be happy to receive them at the next meeting of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee scheduled for November 28, 2007.

At the next meeting, the Committee will hear presentations from the Planning and Development Services, York Regional Police, Corporate Communications, Environmental Services, and Transportation Services Departments.

We ask that you carefully review the plans prior to the meeting and be prepared to provide comment and feedback at the meeting.

LD/lac

Attachment

YORK REGION ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YRAAC)

Summary of Feedback: DRAFT 2008 Departmental Accessibility Plans

Questions, Comments or Suggestions
General Comments
Are there any plans to make the forest trails in York Region accessible for persons with disabilities? Staff should look into what other jurisdictions in North America are doing regarding making their forests accessible. Suggestion to contact head of Oak Ridges Moraine Association to find out what they are doing (Kim?) to coordinate our efforts. Suggestion to contact consultant John Hicks who has done similar work for the Province. East Gwillimbury has also done work in this area.
Community and Health Services
Housing York finished a survey on Housing York residents – do you know the percentage of accessible housing now? Is it still 5% of all the housing available?
How will Community and Health Services identify the clients to participate in the Travel Training Pilot Program without breaching confidentiality?
Why are there people with disabilities in receipt of OW? Why aren't they receiving ODSP?
How long does it take for a person in receipt of OW to receive ODSP after referral?
Request for Ability Edge information to be distributed to the YRAAC.
Request for statistics on employment recruitment activities for people with disabilities in OW Employment Centres.
Request for committee members to receive copies of the Community and Health Services internal ODA Newsletter
Corporate Services
Gratitude expressed by member for hearing YRAAC's concerns and suggestions and acting on them. Appreciation for the great work on north entrance parking lot and inclusion of accessible seating in the halls was also noted.
Is an accessible washroom at the north end of the Administrative Building included in the 2008 plan? Request for a report back concerning this project.
When considering renovations to the existing washroom at the north end of the Administrative Building it would be good to consider a unisex washroom. Many persons with mobility issues require assistance to use the facilities and a unisex washroom would allow for this.
Suggestion for better signage indicating where the accessible washroom is located in the Great Hall of the Administrative Building.
Suggestion to relocate pipes underneath sinks in the washroom to behind the walls or to the sides for easier access to sinks.
Finance
Gratitude expressed by member for making website one of the easiest to navigate.