

Planning and Development

Environmental Scan

The Planning and Development Services Department provides accessible public meetings by identifying and removing where possible, physical, architectural, informational and communicational barriers at their meeting sites. 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 – 2007

Barrier Identified (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)	Barrier Type (Indicates the type(s) of barrier (physical, architectural, informational, communicational, attitudinal, technological, policy/practice)	Disability Type (Indicates the type(s) of disability affected by the barrier (physical, sensory, cognitive or other)	How the barrier was addressed (Describes the action taken to identify, remove or prevent the barrier)
Making it Easier to Move Around the Region			
Accessibility information published in York Region's Visitors Guide.	Physical, Architectural	Physical	Wheelchair accessible icons are included in the Visitor's Guide as informed by tourism partners.
Making it Easier to Participate in Regional Government			
Accessibility Audit of Public Consultation Centres.	Informational, Physical, Architectural	Physical/Sensory	Staff will use the Accessible Meeting Guidelines when choosing and preparing public meeting venues. The Official Plan Manual will include guidelines for choosing accessible locations for public meetings and open houses. All locations of the Planning for Tomorrow public consultation meetings and 3 Regional Official Plan Amendments held in 2007 were wheelchair accessible, and infrared assistive listening devices were used whenever available. In the public meeting of the York Region Immigration Portal held in May 2007, sign language interpretation was provided.
Accessibility to Geomatics maps and products.	Informational, Physical, Technological	Sensory, Physical	Continuous incorporation of practices enhancing accessibility in the development of all new products.
Changing Attitudes and Raising Awareness			
Increase awareness of staff to the needs of persons with disabilities through staff participation in inclusivity training.	Attitudinal	Sensory, Physical	All department staff were encouraged to participate in inclusivity training. 5 staff have registered for training course in 2007.

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Barrier Identification for 2008

By-laws, policies and practices to be reviewed	Methods to be used to identify the barrier	Timing (When will this be completed?) The timing for addressing a barrier does not necessarily have to be set within 2008. 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)
Making it Easier to Participate in Regional Government		
Accessibility Audit of Public Consultation Centres.	Accessibility audits will be conducted of Public Consultation Centres using the corporate Accessible Meeting Guidelines.	2008

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Barriers That Will Be Addressed for 2008

Barrier Identified (Indicate where the barrier was found)	Barrier Type (Indicate the type of barrier - physical, architectural, informational, communicational, attitudinal, technological, policy/practice)	Disability Type (Indicate the type of disability affected by the barrier - physical, sensory, cognitive or other)	What will be gained by removing or preventing the barrier (Indicate how accessibility will be enhanced by removing or preventing this barrier)	Means to prevent/remove the barrier (Describe what action will be taken to remove and/or prevent the barrier)	Indicators of success (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)	Timing (The timing for addressing a barrier does not necessarily have to be set in 2008; 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)
Making it Easier to Participate in Regional Government						
Accessibility to Geomatics maps and products.	Informational, Physical, Technological	Sensory, Physical	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 combination of colours (red and green) on maps. Alternate scroll-over option to allow text-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, text-to-speech and mouseless keyboards.	Continuous incorporation of practices in development of all new products.	2008 - Ongoing

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Making it Easier to Move Around the Region						
Inclusion of accessibility planning in new community developments	Physical, Policy/Practice	All	New accessible communities in York Region will be created so that everyone is entitled to reasonable access to all places and services.	The Region's Sustainability Strategy aims to build healthy communities in York Region. Its draft action plan includes "Create new communities that prioritize mobility and access so that everyone is entitled to reasonable access to all places, good and services in the Region. This includes people with physical disabilities, low incomes and elderly". Accessibility and mobility will be incorporated in the development of new communities design criteria in collaboration with local municipalities.	Incorporation of mobility and accessibility into the new community design criteria.	2008 - Ongoing

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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	All	Will provide staff with an introduction to the information to effectively and respectfully serve persons with disabilities.	7 employees in the Planning and Development 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.	2008 - Ongoing