

Update on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)

Presentation to the York Region
Accessibility Advisory
Committee

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Overview

- ❑ Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation
- ❑ Final Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard
- ❑ Implications for York Region
- ❑ Next Steps

Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

- ❑ Posted on the Regulatory Registry on September 2nd, 2010 for a 45-day review.
- ❑ Includes the integration of the proposed Information & Communications, Employment and Transportation Standards



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Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

The Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation includes:

- ❑ Accessibility Requirements
 - ❑ General
 - ❑ Information and Communications
 - ❑ Employment
 - ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Compliance
 - ❑ Administrative monetary penalties
 - ❑ Designation of a tribunal to hear appeals under the AODA
- ❑ Timelines for compliance between 2011 and 2025



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Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

General Requirements

- ▣ Policies and Practices
- ▣ Kiosks
- ▣ Accessibility Planning
- ▣ Training
- ▣ Feedback Process
- ▣ Emergency and Public Safety Information



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Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

Information and Communications

- ▣ Focuses on accessible information and communications relating to the provision of goods and services.



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Information and Communications

Key Requirements:

- ▣ Accessible Formats and Communication supports upon request
- ▣ Notice of availability of documents
- ▣ Accessible Websites
- ▣ Requirements for the public and private educational sector



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Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

Employment

- ▣ Informs organizations how to provide accessibility for people with disabilities across all stages of the employment life cycle.



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Employment

Key Requirements:

- ▣ An accessible recruitment process
- ▣ Return to work process
- ▣ Employee accommodation process
- ▣ Performance management, career development and redeployment process



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Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

Transportation

- ▣ To prevent and remove barriers so that people with disabilities can more easily access transportation services across the province.



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Transportation

Key Requirements

- ❑ Transportation-specific Training
- ❑ Operator Responsibilities
- ❑ Equal Fares and Fees for people with disabilities
- ❑ Accessible Boarding/De-boarding
- ❑ Alternative Accessible Method of Transportation
- ❑ Coordinated Service Between Adjacent Municipalities
- ❑ Booking Requirements, including same day service



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Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation

- ❑ Compliance timelines for the requirement for the proposed regulation range from 2011 – 2025.
- ❑ Harmonization of the AODA with other legislation and initiatives has begun.



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Final Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard

- ❑ Posted on the Province's AccessOn website on September 9, 2010.
- ❑ Currently with the Minister for consideration as law.



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Final Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard

- ❑ Covers elements that are currently covered by the Ontario Building Code and elements that are not covered by the Code.
- ❑ It applies to new construction and extensive renovation and change of use.
- ❑ It does not include retrofit or "specific occupancy" facility requirements (example: schools, arenas or hospitals).



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Final Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard

Key Requirements

- ☐ Common Access and Circulation
- ☐ Interior Accessible Routes
- ☐ Exterior Spaces
- ☐ Communication elements and facilities
- ☐ Plumbing Elements and Facilities
- ☐ Building Performance and Maintenance
- ☐ Special Rooms, Spaces and other Elements
- ☐ Transient Residential
- ☐ Recreation Elements and Facilities
- ☐ Multi Unit Housing



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Final Proposed Accessible Built Environment Standard

Compliance

- ☐ New Construction – 24 months after regulation comes into force
- ☐ Extensive Renovation and Change of Use – 24 months after regulations comes into force



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Implications for York Region

- ❑ No accompanying funding
- ❑ Good positioning for York Region
- ❑ Formalize best practices
- ❑ Include AODA in accessibility planning process
- ❑ Employment standard requirements in practice now
- ❑ Short timeframe for Transportation sector compliance
- ❑ Final Proposed Built Environment will mainly impact Housing York Inc and Regional Facilities



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Next Steps

- ❑ Community and Health Services is working with Lead Departments to assess implications



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Questions

