

Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Ministre des Affaires municipales
et du Logement

Minister Responsible for Seniors

Ministre délégué aux Affaires des personnes âgées

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05-16854

May 20, 2005

Mr. Wilf Morley
Chair
York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Ms. Joyce Frustaglio
Regional Councillor
Vice-Chair, York Region AAC
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

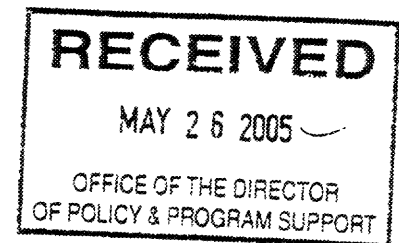
Dear Mr. Morley and Ms. Frustaglio:

Thank you for your letter of March 31, 2005, with your recommendation that the standards created under the proposed Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (Bill 118) must be compatible with those in the Ontario Building Code (OBC).

The proposed legislation provides for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to invite persons with disabilities or their representatives, as well as members from the industry, and various provincial ministries to participate on Standards Development Committees. Under Bill 118, Committees would develop proposed accessibility standards and recommend them to the Minister for approval by Cabinet as regulations.

I can assure you that we will continue to work closely with our colleagues at the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, to ensure that the goals of the OBC, including the accessibility of buildings and the protection of the health and safety of the occupants, are not compromised by, or in conflict with, any new standards.

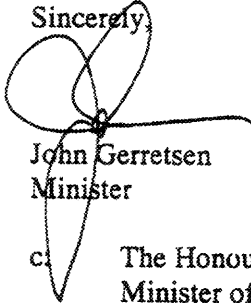
Should the Bill be passed into law, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing would play a key role in supporting the achievement of accessibility for persons with disabilities in buildings and premises.



Mr. Morley and Ms. Frustaglio

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your views on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a vertical line extending downwards.

John Gerretsen
Minister

c. The Honourable Dr. Marie Bountrogianni
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration