



Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care 2005-2006 Accessibility Plan

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Introduction

The recent passage of the landmark Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 marks a new era of accessibility in Ontario. This legislation will make Ontario one of the world leaders in improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

While the government is moving forward to implement the new legislation, there will be a transition period during which government and parts of the broader public sector will continue to have planning and other obligations under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA). These obligations will remain in effect until they are repealed and replaced by standards under the new act.

Under the ODA, Ontario government ministries, municipalities, hospitals, school boards, colleges, universities and public transportation organizations are required to develop annual accessibility plans to make policies, practices, programs, services and buildings more accessible to people with disabilities. These plans must be made available to the public. Accessibility planning efforts to date have developed a strong foundation for the development of accessibility standards that will ensure real and effective change.

This document is the third annual accessibility plan developed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. It highlights achievements of the 2004-05 Plan and outlines commitments for 2005-06 so that no new barriers are created and, over time, existing ones are removed.

This ministry intends to build on its achievements by implementing initiatives that support the government's efforts and commitment to continue to make Ontario an inclusive and accessible province, where people of all abilities have a chance to fully participate and achieve their potential.

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Message from the Minister



Our government believes all Ontarians should have the opportunity to participate fully, and realize their potential, in every aspect of their lives.

The passage of the landmark Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) marks a new era in accessibility in this province.

The legislation requires government to work with the disability community and the private and public sectors to develop standards that can be achieved within five-year stages. This will lead to a fully accessible Ontario in 20 years.

Passage of this legislation reflects our government's determination to deliver on that goal. We continue to build on past achievements and to lay the foundation for developing accessibility standards that will ensure real and effective change in the lives of people with disabilities.

It is important that we lead by example in becoming an accessible and inclusive employer and service provider. For instance, we are making public health-related meetings and events accessible to people with disabilities.

I am proud that the government continues to take a leadership role in eliminating barriers and improving accessibility in such areas as customer service, employment, and communications and information.

This past year, for example, we made changes to the Health Protection and Promotion Act that permit a person with any medical condition to be accompanied by a guide dog in a restaurant or other food-service location.

The achievements highlighted in this year's plan, as well as our commitment to make further improvements in the coming year, demonstrate our efforts to help make Ontario's communities strong, vital and accessible to people of all abilities.

I greatly appreciate the work of ministry staff in helping to make this happen.



George Smitherman
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

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Report on Achievements of 2004-2005 Planning Commitments

The purpose of this annual Accessibility Plan is to describe the measures the ministry took last year to identify, remove and prevent barriers experienced by people with disabilities. The ministry was successful in achieving, and in some cases, surpassing, planned commitments outlined in the 2004-05 accessibility plan. The following section provides a status report of significant achievements, consistent with the requirements of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA).

Commitment :

The ministry will review and update its Accessibility Plan every year in consultation with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario.

Status :

Completed

Action and Time Frame :

The 2004-2005 plan was made available to the public and is on the ministry's website. The Working Group is required to meet the annual accessibility planning requirements of the ODA.

Commitment :

The Accessibility Working Group will meet regularly to review the Accessibility Plan, identify future training needs for all staff and discuss achievements and progress on ODA compliance.

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Members of the Accessibility Working Group provided regular updates on their commitments and achievements. The ODA lead provided feedback to members on their submissions and updates on the progress of the ODA. There were several senior level management meetings held in 2004-2005.

Rationale :

Meetings will occur on a regular basis and the Working Group will consult regularly with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario on the annual accessibility planning process.

Commitment :

The ministry has established a Strategic Accommodation Planning Group to address employee accommodation issues in existing buildings and new premises, and requests for accommodations for people with disabilities that may have an impact on the ministry.

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The Strategic Accommodation Planning Group was established and addressed accommodation and accessibility issues as they arose.

Rationale :

The Strategic Accommodation Planning Group ensured facility projects were executed in compliance with Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities issued in October 2004.

Commitment :

The ministry's human resources staff will receive employee accommodation training to ensure they are knowledgeable about ODA requirements.

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

HR staff received employee-accommodation training in 2004.

Rationale :

HR staff training will continue as appropriate.

Commitment :

Bargaining agents will contribute to the ministry ODA plan.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

This commitment is in progress as it was not fully completed due to collective bargaining activities and will continue to be fully implemented in the current planning period.

Rationale :

The Ministry Employee Relations Committee and Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees of Ontario (AMAPCEO) Ministry Employee Relations Committee will discuss the current plan and provide input into future Accessibility Plans.

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to ensure that any transfer partner proposing or undertaking a capital project will assume responsibility for complying with all applicable codes and requirements.

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry continued to notify health-care facility boards and owners of their responsibility to comply with applicable codes (such as the Ontario Fire Code and the Ontario Building Code) and requirements through the ministry's publicly accessible Capital Planning Manual and in ministry correspondence to facilities undertaking capital projects. Notification of health-care facilities regarding their responsibilities continued throughout the year as existing capital projects progressed through design and implementation and as the ministry approved project proposals.

Rationale :

Specific time lines associated with a health-care facility capital project are treated individually, based on a particular facility's construction schedule.

Commitment :

The ministry has revised its leasing criteria to make accessibility mandatory for all lease searches, including site and building, transportation routes and adjacent facilities. The ministry has also reviewed existing sites to determine compliance with the *Building Code Act, 1992*, and other relevant codes.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry has continued to make accessibility mandatory in all lease searches. ODA compliance is mandatory when Registration Claims Branch requisitions the ministry's Facility Management Services to engage the Ontario Realty Corporation in all new lease searches.

Rationale :

New requirements for government buildings and facilities were issued by the Ontario Realty Corporation in October 2004 and are to be incorporated for any new leases. Compliance with any new requirements is ongoing.

Commitment :

The ministry is committed to ensuring that new and redeveloped long-term care (LTC) homes meet the standards specified in the ministry's Long-Term Care Facility Design Manual (1999). These facilities must also comply with the Ontario Building Code.

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Upon completion, all LTC homes are inspected to ensure these standards are met.

Rationale :

Timelines are determined based on LTC home construction schedules.

Commitment :

The ministry has made its regional offices more accessible for staff and the public who use wheelchairs by building ramps, locating offices on ground floors, and installing door operators and lower counters (camera stations).

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry continued to comply with the legislative requirements in all facility/accommodation initiatives. This includes the accelerated renovation project at the Macdonald-Cartier Building in Kingston to be completed in the spring of 2006, the new OHIP office in downtown Toronto, and the ServiceOntario co-location in Owen Sound.

Rationale :

As new facility/accommodation initiatives arise, the ministry complies with legislative requirements.

Commitment :

The ministry will implement new accessibility procurement guidelines.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

In August 2004, the procurement requirements were issued and have become part of the ministry's procurement practices. Additional directions were issued in June 2005 and are being implemented.

Human Services Information and Information Technology Cluster clients were directed to explore the procurement intranet site, which has direct links to Industry Canada. The Human Services Information and Information Technology Cluster business consultants worked with the procurement office to ensure needs were identified, and adequately budgeted.

Rationale :

This is ongoing. The ministry is required to conform to procurement directives issued by the government.

Commitment :

The ministry has developed specifications for furniture, seating and furniture accessories in accordance with ergonomic standards that are suitable for use by people with disabilities. (These include height-adjustable keyboards).

Status :

In progress

Action and Time Frame :

As furniture, seating and furniture accessories were bought, the specifications developed by the ministry were taken into consideration.

Rationale :

The ministry will continue to review and monitor specifications.

Commitment :

The Provincial Psychiatric Hospitals (PPHs) will monitor current research and hospital standards in a systematic and ongoing way to identify, prevent, assess and remove barriers.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The PPHs have developed and implemented a process for buying furnishings and equipment that enhances patient health and helps eliminate and/or minimize barriers. This activity has been incorporated as a standard practice at all PPHs.

Rationale :

PPHs continue to review and monitor the process as required.

Commitment :

Program areas will be invited on a yearly basis to identify appropriate amendments to acts or regulations.

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Legal counsel staff reviewed, identified and addressed accessibility issues as they developed or revised legislation and regulations.

In the spring of 2004, Regulation 562 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act was amended to permit a service dog acting as a guide for a person with any medical condition to be present in the patron's area of food service premises. Previously, only a service dog guiding a blind person was permitted in food service premises.

The review of legislative and regulatory issues by legal counsel and ministry staff continued on a case-by-case basis.

Rationale :

To facilitate the removal and prevention of barriers, program areas and legal counsel are invited annually to consider accessibility issues, and – if need be – to identify appropriate amendments, whenever they develop or revise ministry acts or regulations.

Commitment :

Barriers for people with disabilities are to be removed from all Central Ambulance Communications Centres (CACC). Ministry staff will continue to review policies on a case-by-case basis with respect to accessibility issues.

Status :

Completed

Action and Time Frame :

All ministry-operated CACCs are barrier-free for access by people with disabilities.

Commitment :

The ministry has developed and implemented procedures to monitor compliance with all acts and regulations and to identify necessary site modifications based on code requirements, accessibility needs and obligations and issues that have the potential to expose the ministry to liability.

Government standards for barrier-free design will be applied: when the ministry purchases or builds new government-owned facilities (buildings, structures and premises); when the ministry significantly renovates existing government-owned facilities; and when the ministry enters into a new lease for facilities for its use.

Status :

Completed and in progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry continues to monitor code amendments, accessibility needs and obligations to ensure compliance. This action is being incorporated in each new renovation project as needed.

Rationale :

This is an ongoing requirement.

Commitment :

The ministry will conduct a review of employment advertisements to identify any systemic barriers for people with disabilities. The results of this review will be used to address and remove any identified barriers in future accessibility planning.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry continues its review of systemic barriers associated with job advertisements.

Rationale :

This is an ongoing requirement.

Commitment :

The ministry will promote greater awareness and understanding of disability issues and MOHLTC guidelines.

Status :

In 2004-05, 182 managers took online training. In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Managers were informed of the training requirement and the availability of online training. The ministry will continue to provide current and future new managers and supervisors with online ODA accessibility awareness training.

Rationale :

This is an ongoing requirement.

Commitment :

The ministry committed to updating its corporate French website by early 2004 to make it consistent with the ODA standards.

Status :

Completed and In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Updating of the corporate French site to make it consistent with ODA standards was completed in April 2005.

Rationale :

The French site will continue to be updated so that it will be consistent with the ODA.

Commitment :

Practices must be in place in partnership with Publications Ontario for the coordination of publications in accessible alternate formats.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Ongoing improvements :

- The font size of type in publications targeted at seniors is routinely set at 13-point type.
- The TTY number was actively promoted in all media and publications.

Rationale :

These improvements will be ongoing.

Commitment :

The ministry will ensure accessibility for people with disabilities at venues for public health related meetings and events.

Status :

In progress

Action and Time Frame :

Where possible, the ministry ensured that accommodation requests met accessibility needs in public- health related and other meetings and event venues and were dealt with in a timely and cost-effective manner.

These included the Operation Health Protection – Public Health Revitalization event, the event to kick-off Home Care Week, and the consultations relating to the proposed LTC legislation.

Rationale :

These considerations will apply to future events.

Commitment :

The ministry requires that any transfer agent of a publicly funded partner, such as a hospital, that is proposing or undertaking a capital project such as a renovation, will assume responsibility for all applicable codes and requirements.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry advised health-care facility boards/owners of their responsibility to comply with applicable codes (such as the Ontario Fire Code, the Ontario Building Code and the Ontario Realty Corporation's Standards for Barrier Free Designs) and requirements. Through our publicly accessible Capital Planning Manual (1996), and regular correspondence from the ministry, boards/owners of health-care facilities were notified that, among their other duties, they are responsible for ensuring that each capital project "is designed and tendered in accordance with existing guidelines, code requirements, regulations, standards and

ministry policies." In addition, when supporting a health-care facility to tender its respective capital project, standard ministry correspondence to the facility states : "It remains the responsibility of the health-care facility and its agents to ensure that all applicable provincial codes and requirements, including those of the Ontario Fire Marshal, are met."

Rationale :

Health-care transfer partners are notified that, in planning for any capital project for their facility, issues of health, safety and accessibility are to be addressed in compliance with applicable codes and requirements.

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to provide employment accommodation to employees, consistent with government direction. It will also provide modified return-to-work arrangements for employees with disabilities.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry will continue to accommodate the accessibility needs of its employees in accordance with the Human Rights Code to the extent that these needs relate to their employment.

Rationale :

This remains an ongoing management responsibility and commitment.

Commitment :

The ministry will consider and identify any possible impact the ODA may have on its recruitment and service-delivery processes. It will remove any identified barriers that may affect applicants and employees with disabilities.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Further consideration of the ODA's impact on recruitment occurred in conjunction with the redesign of staffing functions. Moderate achievements were made in the redesign. Further consideration will be necessary with the introduction of new accountabilities and standards.

Rationale :

Work is being integrated into the OPS-wide HR Transformation Project.

Commitment :

The ministry will review how it delivers employment accommodation services. The results of this review will be used to improve delivery.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

Review of employment accommodation services is under way.

Rationale :

Accommodating accessibility needs remains an ongoing management responsibility and commitment.

Commitment :

The ministry, in partnership with local Joint Health and Safety Committees, will deal with any issues relating to compliance and any requests for accommodation to meet accessibility needs in ministry facilities, in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Status :

In Progress

Action and Time Frame :

The ministry will comply with the new requirements for government facilities, Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, which were released in October 2004.

Rationale :

This is an ongoing requirement.

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Commitments and Strategies for 2005-2006

Communications and Information

Commitment : The ministry will promote greater awareness and understanding of disability issues and ministry guidelines.

Action :

Awareness training will be available for all current and future managers.

Time Frame :

Training will be provided as needed.

Commitment :

The ministry will review and update its Accessibility Plan every year in consultation with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario.

Action :

The ministry will prepare and electronically post its annual Accessibility Plan on the MOHLTC's website in the fall of 2005.

Time Frame :

Fall of 2005.

Commitment :

Practices must be in place in partnership with Publications Ontario for the coordination of publications in accessible alternate formats.

Action :

Ongoing improvements :

- The font size of type in publications targeted at seniors is routinely set at 13-point type.
- The TTY number is actively promoted in all media and publications.

Time Frame :

These improvements will be ongoing.

Commitment :

The ministry is committed to updating its corporate French website to make it consistent with the ODA standards.

Action :

The French site will continue to be updated so that it will be consistent with the ODA.

Time Frame :

These improvements will be ongoing.

Customer Service

Commitment :

The ministry will provide procurement staff with relevant accessibility resources that have been developed to assist with the implementation of the procurement guidelines.

Action :

The additional tools will be posted on the ministry's Strategic Services and Contract Management intranet web site and related training will occur during the regularly scheduled consulting services contract management training.

Time Frame :

The tools will be posted by November 2005. Training will take place in December 2005 and January 2006.

Commitment :

The Accessibility Working Group will meet regularly to review the Accessibility Plan, identify future training needs for all staff members and discuss achievements and progress on ODA compliance. The ministry will continue to provide current and future new managers and supervisors with online ODA accessibility awareness training.

Action :

The ministry will continue to :

- Ensure all new and existing managers complete ODA online training.
- Explore options to have accessibility awareness incorporated into staff orientation.
- Identify accessibility considerations for Information and Information Technology.

Time Frame :

Meetings will occur on a regular basis. The Working Group will consult regularly with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario on the annual accessibility planning process.

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to use specifications it has developed for furniture, seating and furniture accessories in accordance with ergonomic standards that are suitable for use by people with disabilities. These include height-adjustable keyboards.

Action :

As furniture, seating and furniture accessories are purchased, the specifications developed by the ministry will continue to be taken into consideration.

Time Frame :

The ministry will continue to review and monitor specifications as needed.

Commitment :

The Provincial Psychiatric Hospitals (PPHs) will continue to systematically monitor current research and hospital standards to identify, prevent, assess and remove barriers.

Action :

The PPHs will continue buying furnishings and equipment that enhances patient health and helps eliminate and/or minimize barriers.

Time Frame :

The psychiatric hospitals continue to review and monitor the process.

Commitment :

The ministry has developed and implemented procedures to monitor compliance with all acts and regulations and to identify necessary site modifications based on code requirements, accessibility needs and obligations and issues that have the potential to expose the ministry to liability.

Government standards for barrier-free design will continue to be applied: when the ministry purchases or builds new government-owned facilities (buildings, structures and premises); when the ministry significantly renovates existing government-owned facilities; and when the ministry enters into a new lease for facilities for its use.

Action :

The ministry continues to monitor code amendments, accessibility needs and obligations to ensure compliance. This action is being incorporated in each new renovation project where required.

Time Frame :

This is an ongoing requirement.

Employment

Commitment :

The ministry has established a Strategic Accommodation Planning Group (SAPG) to address employee accommodation and employee and public accessibility issues during large scale renovation and accommodation projects in existing buildings and new premises. The Group will continue to ensure all large-scale projects comply with ODA and Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, issued in October 2004.

Action :

The Strategic Accommodation Planning Group will address accommodation and accessibility issues as they arise.

Time Frame :

The Strategic Accommodation Planning Group will continue to ensure that facility projects are executed in compliance with the Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, issued in October 2004.

Commitment :

Members of the ministry's human-resources staff will receive employee accommodation training to ensure they are knowledgeable about ODA requirements.

Action :

Training will continue as appropriate.

Time Frame :

Ongoing

Commitment :

Bargaining agents will contribute to the ministry ODA plan.

Action :

The Ministry Employee Relations Committee and Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees of Ontario (AMAPCEO) Ministry Employee Relations Committee will discuss the 2005-2006 plan and provide input into future Accessibility Plans.

Time Frame :

Ongoing throughout 2005-2006.

Commitment :

The ministry will conduct a review of employment advertisements to identify any systemic barriers for people with disabilities. The results of this review will be used to address and remove any identified barriers in future accessibility planning.

Action :

The ministry will realign with the work of the HR Transformation Project to review systemic barriers associated with job advertisements.

Time Frame :

Ongoing throughout 2005-2006.

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to provide employment accommodation, consistent with government direction. It will also provide modified return-to-work arrangements for employees with disabilities.

Action :

The ministry will accommodate the accessibility needs of its employees in accordance with the Human Rights Code to the extent that these needs relate to their employment. The Health Results Team is working with Human Resources Branch to ensure that the needs of employees who have identified special accommodation needs are being dealt with in appropriate fashion.

Time Frame :

Ongoing.

Commitment :

The ministry will consider and identify any possible impact the ODA may have on its recruitment and service-delivery processes. It will remove any identified barriers that may affect applicants and employees with disabilities.

Action :

Ongoing review.

Time Frame :

Ongoing.

Built Environment

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to make accessibility mandatory in all new lease searches for acquisition of new space where the lease is greater than 30 months, as per Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, issued in October 2004.

Action :

The ministry has revised its leasing criteria to make accessibility mandatory for all lease searches, including site and building, transportation routes and adjacent facilities. The ministry has also reviewed existing sites to determine compliance with the Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, issued in October 2004, Building Code Act, 1992, and other relevant codes.

Time Frame :

Ongoing.

Commitment :

The ministry will ensure that new and redeveloped long-term care (LTC) homes meet the standards specified in the ministry Long-Term Care Facility Design Manual (1999) and the Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, issued in October 2004.

Action :

Construction plans for all new and redeveloping LTC homes are reviewed to ensure they will meet these standards. Upon completion of construction, all LTC homes are inspected to ensure these standards have been met.

Time Frame :

Timelines are determined based on LTC home construction schedules.

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to make its regional offices more accessible to anyone who uses a wheelchair, by building ramps, locating offices on ground floors, and installing door operators and lower counters at camera stations, for example.

Action :

The ministry will continue to comply with the legislative requirements in all facility/accommodation initiatives, such as the accelerated renovation project at the OHIP customer-service entry and interview room doors in Sault Ste. Marie, and the ServiceOntario co-locations in Ottawa, Peterborough, Sarnia and Windsor.

The ministry will continue to make accessibility mandatory in all new lease searches for acquisition of new space where the lease is greater than 30 months, and during major renovations, as per Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, issued in October 2004.

Time Frame :

As new facility/accommodation initiatives arise, the ministry will make the regional offices more accessible.

Commitment :

The ministry will ensure accessibility for people with disabilities at public venues for health-related meetings and events.

Action :

The ministry will ensure accommodation requests meet accessibility needs in public, health-related meetings and event venues are dealt with in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Time Frame :

Ongoing.

Commitment :

The ministry, in partnership with local Joint Health and Safety Committees, will deal with any issues relating to compliance and any requests for accommodation to meet accessibility needs in ministry facilities, in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Action :

The ministry continues to make accessibility mandatory in all new lease searches for acquisition of new space where the lease is greater than 30 months, as per Standards for Barrier-free Design of Ontario Government Facilities, issued in October 2004.

Time Frame :

This is an ongoing commitment.

Commitment :

The ministry will install permanent seating and a telephone for people who need assistance during an emergency in the designated waiting area.

Action :

Macdonald-Cartier Building in Kingston is being fitted with permanent bench seating near the lobby telephones on each floor.

Time Frame :

Currently underway.

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to ensure that all transfer partners proposing or undertaking a capital project will be notified of their responsibility to comply with all applicable codes and requirements.

Action :

The ministry will continue to notify health-care facility boards and owners of their responsibility to comply with applicable codes (such as the Ontario Fire Code and the Ontario Building Code) and requirements. This will be done through the ministry's publicly accessible Capital Planning Manual and in standard ministry correspondence to facilities undertaking capital projects.

Time Frame :

Notification to health-care facilities regarding their responsibilities will continue throughout 2005-2006 as existing capital projects progress through design and implementation and as the ministry approves new project proposals. Specific timelines associated with a health-care facility capital project are treated individually, based on a particular facility's construction schedule.

Commitment :

The ministry will continue to require that any of its transfer partners, such as a hospital, proposing or undertaking a capital project such as a renovation, is notified of its responsibility to comply with all applicable codes and requirements.

Action :

On a regular basis, the ministry advises health-care facility boards/owners of their responsibility to comply with applicable codes (such as the Ontario Fire Code and the Ontario Building Code) and requirements. Through its publicly accessible Capital Planning Manual (1996), and regular correspondence from the ministry, boards/owners of health-care facilities will be notified that, among their other duties, they are responsible for ensuring that each capital project "is designed and tendered in accordance with existing guidelines, code requirements, regulations, standards and ministry policies." In addition, when supporting a health-care facility to tender its respective capital project, standard ministry correspondence to the facility states: "It remains the responsibility of the health-care facility and its agents to ensure that all applicable provincial codes and requirements, including those of the Ontario Fire Marshal, are met."

Time Frame :

Health care transfer partners will be notified that, in planning for any capital project for their facility, issues of health, safety and accessibility are to be addressed in compliance with applicable codes and requirements.

Acts and Regulations

Commitment :

Program areas will continue to be invited on a yearly basis to identify appropriate amendments to acts or regulations.

Action :

Legal counsel and ministry staff will continue to review acts and regulations on a case-by-case basis, as they are developed or revised, to identify and address accessibility issues. A process may be developed to ensure that all reviews are consistent with the ODA.

Time Frame :

Program areas and legal counsel will continue to be invited annually to consider accessibility issues, and if need be, to identify appropriate amendments, whenever they develop new ministry acts or regulations.

For more information

Questions or comments about the ministry's accessibility plan are always welcome.

Please phone :

General inquiry number : 1-800-268-1154 (in Toronto, 416-314-5518)

TTY number : 1-800-387-5559

E-mail : info@mh.gov.on.ca

Ministry website address : <http://www.health.gov.on.ca>

Ontario's consumer health information website : www.HealthyOntario.com.

Visit the Ministry of Community and Social Services Accessibility Ontario website at : www.mcs.gov.on.ca/accessibility/index.html. The site promotes accessibility and provides information and resources on how to make Ontario a barrier-free province.

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