

FW: Draft Report - Accessibility Barriers

From: "Orsini, Steve (CAB)" <steve.orsini@ontario.ca>
To: "Matela, Angelo (CAB)" <angelo.matela@ontario.ca>, "Kwamena, Boafoa (CAB)" <boafoa.kwamena@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 28 Sep 2017 15:43:01 -0400

From: Bromm, William (CAB)
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:43:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Orsini, Steve (CAB); Kwamena, Boafoa (CAB)
Subject: Fw: Draft Report - Accessibility Barriers

Just sending as an FYI. A lawyer in energy raise an issue about the accessibility of the draft AG report, which he was asked to review. He needs to review dos on his computer.

My advice is below - said Deputy should raise with the AG, but separate from the review process itself, and offer assistance of OPS experts if she would like it. This might be an issue the AG has not dealt with before, so this can be a very friendly discussion.

William

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Bromm, William (CAB) <William.Bromm2@ontario.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:28 PM
To: Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: Draft Report - Accessibility Barriers

My advice would be that this issue be communicated to the Auditor's Office by the Deputy separate from the review process. One option would be to wait until the review process is complete and the Deputy send a letter or email to the AG saying that he wanted to bring an accessibility/accommodation issue to her attention and say we have accommodation specialists in the OPS who can assist her office if she wishes to make adjustments to her procedures in the future. The other option would be for him to do it now, again as a separate letter, with essentially the same message.

You might also want to write back to the lawyer and say that he has raised an important issue and that the Deputy will raise the issue with the Auditor. (You might want to say that the Auditor is an independent Officer of the Assembly and determines her own internal procedures, including the process for the review of her reports, but that the Deputy will raise the issue with her and offer the assistance of the OPS. Something like that.

W

From: Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY)
Sent: September 28, 2017 3:22 PM
To: Bromm, William (CAB)
Subject: FW: Draft Report - Accessibility Barriers

Hi William,

Please see below. We would like to seek your advice on how to communicate these concerns back to the AG's Office.

Happy to discuss further.

Thanks,
Martin

From: Rehob, James (ENERGY)
Sent: September 28, 2017 2:34 PM
To: Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY) <Martin.Schlaepfer@ontario.ca>
Cc: Murray, Maud (ENERGY) <Maud.Murray3@ontario.ca>; Thouin, Alena (ENERGY) <Alena.Thouin@ontario.ca>
Subject: Draft Report - Accessibility Barriers

Personal & Confidential

September 28, 2017

Hello, Martin. I really appreciate the opportunity to review the draft Auditor General's special report on the Fair Hydro Plan today, though I wanted to raise an accessibility concern regarding the manner in which the draft report was provided to me.

Since the report was provided to us in hard copy only, and not in an electronic format, I encountered a significant accessibility barrier.

I was able to use a portable camera and laptop to digitally scan (without retaining) the report, in order to maintain the strict confidentiality and integrity of the process conditions which attended the provision of this report. However, this process of scanning/re-scanning, etc.. added significantly to the time it took to review the material and distracted me from the main task, which was to peruse the detailed material. It also meant that I had to create a solution to a challenge that really shouldn't have existed, since the standards related to making documents accessible are today relatively common-place and are regularly employed throughout the public and private sector.

What surprised me most was that, after confirming this with you, no attempt was made by the Office of the Auditor General to determine whether any of our staff had any accessibility needs that required accommodation in terms of the manner (e.g. alternative, electronic format) in which the report could be provided.

I write this email in keeping with the spirit of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and its ethos of removing barriers to access wherever possible.

I trust this email finds you well.

Best,

James

James P. H. Rehob
Senior Counsel
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