

C. Trends and Issues

C.1 Emerging Trends:

Total Number and Percentage of People with Disabilities in Canada:

- Approximately 4.4 million people in Canada have disabilities, representing 14.3 per cent of the population of Canada.

Total Number and Percentage of People with Disabilities in Ontario:

- Approximately 1.85 million people in Ontario have disabilities, representing 15.5 per cent of the population of Ontario.

Source: Statistics Canada, Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, 2001 and 2006; Region of Peel Environment, Transportation and Planning Services, Planning, Policy and Research Division.

Please refer to Appendix IV, Illustration of Emerging Trends.

C.2 Key Strategic Issues:

- Compliance with existing and new legislation (ODA, AODA, Planning Act, OHRC, Ontario Building Code, United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons With Disabilities)
- Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07
- Growing expectations for municipal governments to immediately respond to the accessibility needs of its customers, clients, citizens and employees
- Planning for Peel's rapidly growing population and aging citizens
- Establishing an effective accessibility planning program infrastructure within the Region, including development of efficient and effective processes
- Building and maintaining momentum among staff and AAC for addressing foundational issues for a sustainable and meaningful change
- Creating collaborative internal and external partnerships to identify and address current and emerging accessibility issues
- Level of awareness and understanding of: different types of disabilities; the identification, removal and prevention of barriers; and the ODA and AODA requirements among staff, Regional Council and the public