

HS-C4-1

The Premier
of Ontario

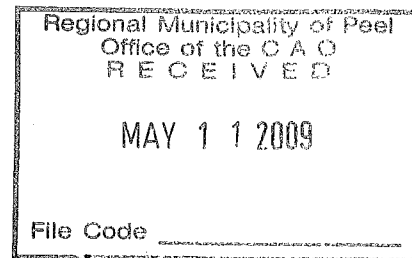
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



May 8, 2009



Mr. Emil Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer
The Regional Municipality of Peel
Office of the Chair
10 Peel Centre Drive
Brampton, Ontario
L6T 4B9

Dear Mr. Kolb:

Thank you for your letter dated April 23, informing me of council's resolution regarding accessibility standards for affordable housing projects. I appreciate the time you took to update me on council's activities.

I note that you have also provided a copy of council's resolution to my colleague the Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. As this issue falls under his responsibility, I am confident that the minister will also be interested in council's resolution.

Thanks again for writing. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

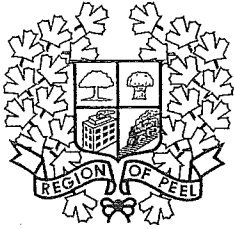
Dalton McGuinty
Premier

c: The Honourable Jim Watson

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Services	Council
Environmental, Transportation and Planning Services	
Employment and Business Services	G.C.
Finance	
Health Services	File
Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Peel Living	





Office of the Chair

April 23, 2009

Resolution No. 2009-340

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Subject: Universal Accessibility Standards for Affordable Housing Projects

As you are aware, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act proclaimed in 2005 plans to remove all barriers in the Province of Ontario by the year 2025. To achieve a barrier free Ontario by 2025, the Act requires the development of Accessibility Standards that will apply to both the public and private sector buildings.

I am writing to advise that on April 2nd, 2009 Council approved the following resolution for the adoption of the 2008 Universal Accessibility Standards for Affordable Housing Projects in the Region of Peel:

That the "2008 Universal Accessibility Standards for Affordable Residential Properties" (UAS) be adopted as a preferred development standard for inclusion in design and development of future Region of Peel affordable housing projects;

And further, that the UAS be incorporated into the Region of Peel Affordable Housing Design Guidelines for consideration subject to feasibility analysis, project characteristics and cost;

And further, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) review all future affordable housing projects in collaboration with Development and Construction staff to determine opportunities to incorporate UAS and to ensure ongoing compliance;

And further, that the AAC, in collaboration with Regional staff, complete an annual evaluation to determine the efficacy of UAS and make revisions as appropriate;

And further, that a copy of the UAS document be sent to the Province of Ontario with a view to inform the legislative process and advocate for funding to support the implementation of UAS.

Universal Accessibility Design Standards is best defined as the creation of products, services and environments that can be used by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. These standards target people of all ages, sizes and abilities.

Creating universally accessible units in future affordable residential properties will allow residents to remain in their suites longer allowing for greater independence and dignity. This aging in place approach strategically reduces the need for more expensive or inappropriate housing alternatives such as premature admission into long-term-care homes or excessive hospital stays.

The UAS document is an important resource to assist the Region of Peel and the Accessibility Advisory Committee in achieving its goal to create accessible housing options that provide independence and dignity for persons of all abilities. Incorporating UAS into our affordable housing design guidelines is an important step in building inclusive communities that are in line with the Ministry of Community and Social Services goal to create resilience and remove obstacles that impede opportunity and participation in community life.

On behalf of Regional Council, I have enclosed a copy of the 2008 Universal Accessibility Standards for Affordable Housing Projects and request that you give consideration to the above resolution. I look forward to your reply. Please quote the Region's reference number in your reply.

Sincerely,



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

EK:tr

Encl.

c: Keith Ward, Commissioner of Human Services, Region of Peel
William Goursky, Chair of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Board
Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services
Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing