

## **Accessibility Planning by Public Sector: Municipalities**

### **Appendix VIII**

2006 Accessibility Plan

Even though new legislation in the form of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005(AODA) received Royal Assent on June 13, 2005 and is now law, the planning requirements of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) remain in force until the Act is repealed.

Under the ODA, all municipalities have a legal obligation to prepare accessibility plans. The ODA specifies that municipalities must consult with people with disabilities in preparing their accessibility plans.

In preparing annual accessibility plans, municipalities must consider the following:

- Plans must address a broad range of disability issues, taking into account the full definition of disability under the ODA and the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Plans must examine all aspects of the municipality's operations, including by-laws, practices, facilities, programs and services.
- Municipalities must take into consideration their role as service providers and employers.
- Plans must identify steps to be taken over time to remove identified barriers and prevent any new ones.
- It is important that municipalities consider incorporating accessibility planning into their business planning cycle to ensure a thoughtful, effective, efficient process with meaningful outcomes.
- All municipalities are accountable to their communities and, as such, must make their accessibility plans available to the public.

\*\* Above information was obtained from the Ministry of Community and Social Services website.