

## **B.6 Significant Recent Activities/Initiatives**

- Updated Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) brochures to clarify mandate, roles and responsibilities of the committee as well as the Regional Accessibility Planning Program and distributed the brochures to Regional Staff and members of the public to raise their understanding of both.
- Continue to educate departmental management teams and staff on the usage of electronic Barrier Identification and Tracking Tool (BITT) to assist management teams in engaging employees at all levels in identifying and reporting barriers on-line, and to use the information collected to manage departmental accessibility tasks by prioritizing and planning for improvements during the Service Strategy and Business Planning (SSBP) process.
- Made presentations to all Regional Departmental Management Teams to provide an overview of the new BITT tool; Region's obligations under the existing (ODA) and new provincial disability legislation (AODA) while highlighting the evolving strategic approach to improving accessibility of Regional programs, services and facilities.
- The Accessibility Planning Program and the Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee continue to participate in joint meetings with members of the City of Brampton and the City of Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committees to discuss best practices, common issues affecting Peel citizens with disabilities and various remedies to improve accessibility.
- Members of the AAC and staff visited Regional event Peel Children Water Festival, attended Liveable Peel Conference, provided input to develop a strategy for Peel Youth and conducted an accessibility audit of the Peel family shelter.
- In December 2006, Accessibility Planning Program in partnership with the Housing Department and Joint Peel Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee organized a full-day internal event (also proclaimed by Regional Council) to celebrate the United Nation's International Day of Disabled Persons; awarded AAC accessibility awards to regional departments and organized mental health awareness session for 143 employees.

- AAC members along with Housing and Property and Social Services departments participated in “Connections 2006 – the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Resource Fair for Persons with Disabilities” in the Region of Peel.
- During 2006, in partnership with Health, two disability educational series comprised of six Lunch N Learn sessions were organized for 90 Regional staff at various locations. Three sessions aimed at improving staff understanding of preparing universal accessible information resources for clients and co-workers with disabilities were scheduled for August, 2006 at three regional locations. Three sessions provided staff specific tips to improving their communications skills in providing service to clients with disabilities.
- AAC members reviewed site plan and provided accessibility recommendations and a letter of endorsement supporting 10 Peel Centre Expansion Project.
- AAC members met with the architecture and project team to review various design options proposed to re-construct the front ramp at 10 Peel Centre Drive. Design was approved and endorsed by the members of AAC. Construction of the ramp is currently underway.
- AAC members and Accessibility Planning Specialist met with the John Street Senior’s Residence project team to review 50% and 75% of the design concept and provided accessibility recommendations.
- Collaborated with the Housing and Property department and the members of AAC to review and improve existing emergency evacuation procedures to ensure safe exit of both, staff and volunteers with various disabilities from regional headquarters.

Appendix III provides readers with detailed information about accessibility initiatives reported by Regional departments since the development of our third Plan that support the objectives of the Accessibility Planning Service Strategy and Business Plan.