

C. Trends and Issues

C.1 Emerging Trends

- By the year 2021, forecasts for the Region of Peel indicate that about 15 per cent of the population will be aged 65 or older
- Incidence of disability increases significantly with age, which indicates that the number of persons with disabilities and the related needs to access Regional services can be expected to increase at a relatively high rate over the next 20 years
- Highest rate of growth in Peel is the population of seniors (69 per cent increase in the seniors' population in the last five years)
- Increased demand for adequate transportation for persons with mobility disabilities
- Rapid population growth and development in the region of Peel
- Citizen/client/customer focus creates expectation of immediate response to accessibility issues
- Reduction in financial resources to address accessibility issues
- More seniors and people with disabilities are living in family structures
- Increased expectations from compliance agencies (such as Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC))
- Increasing expectation for municipal governments to serve as delivery agents for provincial policies

See Appendix IV for illustration of data that provide more details on the emerging trends.

C.2 Key Strategic Issues

- Compliance with existing and new legislation (ODA, AODA, Planning Act, OHRC, Ontario Building Code)
- 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