



Updates to the Accessibility Policy

Presentation to
York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Presentation summary

- Background
- Proposed amendment to the Accessibility Policy
- Next steps

What is the Accessibility Policy?

- Meets an AODA requirement
- Identifies how York Region achieves accessibility under the AODA
- Groups all AODA standards under one policy
- Applies to all York Region Employees, Volunteers and Agents who provide goods, services or facilities on behalf of York Region, or who help develop policies for the organization
- Endorsed by Regional Council in November 2012

Why does the Accessibility Policy need to be amended?

Establishes York Region's core accessibility principles relating to:

- Customer service
- Accessibility planning
- Procurement/self-service kiosks
- Training
- Feedback
- Accessible formats and communications supports
- Websites and web content
- Employment
- Accessible transportation

- **NEW!** Design of Public Spaces – January 1, 2016

What are the Design of Public Spaces Standards?

Addresses accessibility elements in public spaces outside Ontario's Building Code including:

- trails/beach access routes
- outdoor public eating areas
- play spaces
- accessible parking
- exterior paths of travel including sidewalks and accessible pedestrian signals
- service counters
- fixed queuing lines
- waiting areas
- emergency and preventative maintenance in public spaces

What is the proposed amendment to the Accessibility Policy?

Addition of 10th core accessibility principal:

“York Region will incorporate accessibility features when building new, or making planned significant alterations to existing, York Region-controlled public spaces, in accordance with the Design of Public Spaces Standards”

- Applies to public spaces that are new or redeveloped as of January 1, 2016
- York Region has applied the standards to new contracts since 2013
- York Regional Police Services Board will update their Accessibility Policy to mirror the Region’s updated policy

Additional features

Amendment exercise offered opportunity to:

- Update Accessible Customer Service Policy
- Transfer updated policies to accessible template
- Update resources and references

Next steps

- Document YRAAC feedback and revise the proposed Accessibility Policy as appropriate
- Present to Committee and Regional Council in November 2015
- Implement a comprehensive communications and compliance strategy to ensure Design of Public Spaces standards are applied
- Monitor and evaluate activities on an ongoing basis
- Report compliance activities to YRAAC in 2016

Thank you!

