

January 9, 2014

Ms. Lois Brown, M.P.
Newmarket-Aurora
Constituency Office
16600 Bayview Avenue
Suite 206
Newmarket, ON L3X 1Z9

Dear Ms. Brown:

Re: Web Accessibility

On behalf of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, I am writing to provide the committee's comments about the accessibility of the Government of Canada's website.

The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) is a committee of York Regional Council, comprised mostly of citizen volunteers with disabilities, whose mandate is to advise Council about matters pertaining to accessibility and its implementation activities to meet the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. At the November 2013 meeting of the YRAAC, the topic of accessibility features within the Government of Canada's website was discussed. Furthermore, the committee moved to send a letter to the Government of Canada outlining its feedback on the website's accessibility. The feedback is as follows:

- The time allotted for an individual to complete on line forms may pose difficulty for seniors or a people with disabilities to complete the form without having it time out.
- The site contains too much information making it difficult to navigate for people with disabilities. It needs to be streamlined and better organized.
- Committee members were not able to locate tools to increase fonts, contrast or text to speech options for use by people with vision disabilities.
- The links included on the web pages are small and difficult to read especially when so many links are placed one after the other. Contrasting Buttons would be a better option.
- The accessibility page and features that may make the site easier to read and understand should be more easily located.

Accessibility gives people of all abilities the opportunity to participate fully in life. The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee is dedicated to accessibility for everyone and continues its efforts to raise awareness and promote equality in a way that respects the dignity and independence of all.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vito Spatafora". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'V' and 'S'.

Regional Councillor, Vito Spatafora
Chair, York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Copy to: Brock Carleton, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee
Town of Aurora Accessibility Advisory Committee
Town of East Gwillimbury Accessibility Advisory Committee
Town of Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee
Township of King Accessibility Advisory Committee
City of Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee
Town of Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee
Town of Richmond Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee
City of Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Accessibility Advisory Committee