

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017
401 YORK AVENUE, NORQUAY BUILDING

Present: Yvonne Peters (Chairperson), Lanny McInnes, Jim Baker, Scott Jocelyn, Judy Redmond, Dave Schellenberg, Doug Momotiuk, Ralph Groening, John Wyndels (DIO)

Regrets: Jim Derksen, Jesse Turner

Following the last meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Council (council) in November, a letter from the council Chairperson was forwarded to the Minister outlining council concerns that additional resources will be required to ensure successful implementation of the legislation and related standards. A meeting with the Minister has been confirmed for February 22.

Stuart Murray has been asked and accepted to serve as Facilitator/Chairperson of the January 18 public consultation on the Initial Proposed Accessibility Standard on Employment. Members of council would meet with him after the council meeting to ensure there is a clear understanding of roles and the agenda for the event. The secretary provided council with an overview of the event, including people currently registered for the event, the accompanying power point presentation and preparations for the webcast. Information related to the event, including how to view the webcast, is posted on the DIO website.

This was the council's first opportunity to view the draft Terms of Reference for the next area of standard development. There are a number of areas the council wanted added. There must also be a strict reporting regimen from the development committee to the council. The T of R must clearly state what information and communications refer to and what is contained within the scope of this standard. For instance, what are the barriers we are trying to address in the information and communication standard.

We did not spend a lot of time discussing the Ontario Standard for Information and Communication. The Secretary indicated that it is a complex standard with terminology not easily understandable to an individual without a good knowledge of computer language. Some provisions in the Ontario standard will not come into force for ten years after it was established as a regulation. He indicated that the Ontario government has openly admitted this was the most difficult standard to develop and continues to be a source of difficulty. The five-year review of the standard is being conducted in Ontario and the findings are expected to be available within months. The Secretary promised to be touch with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario in regard to the Information and Communications Standard.

The council have identified a large number of potential candidates to serve on the Information and Communication Development Committee. The Secretary cautioned that the council will be spending the next couple months preparing a report for the Minister on the Proposed Accessibility Standard for Employment and that work on this standard and the potential development committee will have to wait until the report is prepared. The council will submit the report to the Minister on March 31, 2017. A compiled list of comments and recommendations from the January 18 public consultation and received electronic submissions will be compiled and reviewed at the next council meeting, scheduled for February 14, 2017.