

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
STANDARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017
DXC TECHNOLOGY, 6TH FLOOR, 200 GRAHAM AVE.**

Present: Lisa Snider, Jeff Buhse, Tanis Woodland, Tony, Chris Bohemier, Paul Knapp, Carol Bartmanovich, Doris Koop, Allen Mankewich, Jim Hounslow, John Wyndels (DIO)

Regrets: Non

The Chairperson and the Secretary of the committee spoke to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO) about their five year-review of the Information and Communications Standard. Minutes of the meeting was distributed with circulated materials. They also spoke with Brian Everton. He's a local expert on Building and Fire Codes. We wanted a better understanding of Fire Plans given the committee's suggested wording of Section 13. We want to re-visit that language following information provided to us by Brian. Minutes of the meeting was distributed with circulated materials.

The Chairperson and the Secretary of the committee will be in Toronto the following week for a conference on federal accessibility legislation. Information and communication technologies procurement is the central theme of the two-day conference. The Chairperson will be updating the Accessibility Advisory Committee on our progress on October 23rd.

When you recognize that the standard applies to both the physical and the digital, you begin to realize how all encompassing the standard could be. It appears that Ontario are moving away from specific to something more generic like functional requirements. This is what we have been contemplating. Ontario is also looking at how to deal with new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence and apps, as only websites are fleshed out in the current ICS. There are a number of loopholes in the IC standard they want closed. Some organizations are avoiding compliance because they are confused by WCAG and others are deliberately taking advantage of oversights in the standard to avoid compliance.

You can have ten people look at WCAG measurements and still get ten different interpretations of whether it is WCAG compliant. Websites can also be WCAG compliant and still be inaccessible. Developers don't always have the necessary knowledge. Education is a crucial component in getting organizations to fully understand what they are required to do under particular standards.

We returned to Section 13 - Emergency Procedure, Plans and/or Public Safety Information. The Chairperson over key concepts in notes from meeting with Brian Everton. The key is size of the building. If a building hits a certain size or above, one needs sprinklers. Typically If you need sprinklers, you need a fire alarm. If you need those two, you need a fire plan.

Two exceptions. Occupancy type A (Assembly – movie theater, art gallery, church) and B (Care and Detention – group homes, jails, hospitals) need to have plans whether they have sprinklers or not. For Occupancy of other kinds (Residential, Business and Personal Services, Mercantile and Industrial) if they are large enough they need sprinklers, a fire alarm and fire plan. The requirements of the NFC can override the National Building Code in that it can cause a building owner to make changes to the building even though there is no current construction (new or renovations) being undertaken.

The Fire Safety Plan is typically required for staff and supervisory staff in building, not the public or occupants. Fire Safety Plans are to be kept on site at all times. For reference by supervisory staff and other personnel (unspecified). In certain instances critical portions of the fire safety plan are stored within the main fire alarm panel for fire department access at the site. It does not need to be made public or shown to occupants, there is no requirement.

We moved forward to Section 14 – Accessible Websites and Web Content. When Ontario put together the Information and Communications Standard in 2010, they never fully envisioned where we would be in 2017. Committee members were asked to identify all the various forms (entities), both physical and digital, we receive information from. This is not a complete list, but includes: websites, email, apps both mobile and native, applications, AI and robots, digital and physical signage and wayfinding, ticket machines, digital and electronic displays, development tools, virtual reality and augmented reality, ticket kiosks, maps, audio, video, blogs, social media content, vending machines, books, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality, events, menus, learning and content management systems, documents such as pdfs, receipts, point of sale or transactions/invoices, brochures/posters/letters, flyers, newspapers, forms, etc. Important to understand that the standard applies to the analog (physical) and digital worlds.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Information and Communications Standard Development Committee is October 18 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at DXC Technology, 6th Floor, 200 Graham Avenue.