

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
SECOND FLOOR EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE**

Present: Jim Baker (Chairperson), Jim Derksen, Jesse Turner, Judy Redmond, John Graham, Doris Koop, Scott Jocelyn, Dianna Scarth, John Wyndels (DIO)

Absent: Marin Harder

The Secretary of the council wrote a note to the Deputy Minister requesting a meeting to discuss the Information and Communications (IC) standard. The Secretary to the council is also Secretary to the Information and Communications Standard Development Committee. After several months of committee meetings, a sub-committee of the committee was established to write a proposed draft of the standard.

Following several sub-committee meetings, there remain a number of unresolved issues. It was determined that we should await the review of the Ontario Information and Communications Standard (ICS), which is expected to be posted in the near future. In our opinion, the revised ICS in Ontario can help resolve outstanding issues and inform our future discussions. The Deputy Minister was informed of the situation and supported this approach.

The council has requested a copy of the proposed standard being developed by the Information and communications sub-committee. The Secretary outlined a number of concerns that he has with the proposed standard. His concerns are that a number of the proposals are too far-reaching and would be unacceptable to any number of stakeholders. While there are some potential costs for organizations to comply with the customer service standard and the proposed employment standard, they are minimal. The Information and Communication standard could be seen as the first accessibility standard where actual capital costs of organizations would be required to achieve compliance.

The council will be meeting with the Minister on Thursday, May 10 at 10:15 a.m. The council is required to have a meeting with the Minister at least once a year. There are a range of issues the council would like to discuss with the Minister. Among the issues are adequate resources to develop and implement standards, the status of a compliance framework, and meeting the government mandate of completing all five accessibility standards in its first-term in office.

The Terms of Reference (T of R) for the two standards Transportation and Built Environment Standard Committees have been prepared by the Secretary and shared with the council. There are statements in one T of R that are not in the other. The council supports having general statements (guidelines) contained in the T of R be consistent.

One of points that was made is that previously regulated areas like transportation and hospitality are no longer fully regulated with the advent of Uber and Airbnb. How does that factor into our discussions? Can the province place regulations on an area of public transportation (Uber) that it has already given license to operate outside regulations applied to previously operational public transportation operations like taxis? What about bike lanes? This is an already municipally regulated area. How should this be handled? Are bike lanes seen as modes of passenger transportation in the same vein as buses and taxis?

The meeting ended shortly before 4:00 p.m. on April 24. A doodle will be forwarded in the days following the council meeting to determine the next two meeting dates.