

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Committee

Summary: November 26, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome & Check-in

Nancy Simms welcomed committee members and facilitated a check-in.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary

The minutes for the June & September 2010 meetings were approved.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Bell Relay Service

Staff in the Registrar's office may encounter callers who use the Bell Relay Service (BSR), the Manager, Customer Services will explore training and job aids to assist call centre staff in providing accessible service to these customers.

Building Accessibility: Athletics Centre

- Areas for increased accessibility in the Athletics Centre include:
- Lower hand back attached to the wall
- A personal trainer who is able to work with people with disabilities
- Accessible elevators
- Redefining the notion of "Athletic Excellence"

The Athletics Centre has committed to contacting the Manager, Customer Services, when the elevator contract has expired in order to improve the accessibility of the elevator.

4. Overview of the Proposed Regulations

The Human Rights & Diversity Manager delivered a power point presentation on the Proposed Integrated Accessibility Standards which will integrate the Employment, Information & Communications and Transportation Standards into one regulation.

Beyond compliance to the AODA legislation is the fact that it calls for organizational change work which takes time to develop. The climate at the College regarding equity concerns appears to have shifted, thus creating space for this kind of change.

5. Ontario Colleges Learning Exchange Update

The Human Rights & Diversity Advisor provided a summary of the Ontario College's Learning Exchange which was co-hosted on Friday, November 5th, 2010 by Humber College and Seneca College. Participants in attendance discussed the upcoming Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation, participated in a presentation regarding the creation of accessible documents, and created an action plan with strategies for meeting the AODA requirements in a resource-constrained climate.

Outcomes from the Learning Exchange include the development of a listserve for Colleges to discuss challenges and successes in AODA compliance and the creation of a project that may assist Colleges in developing AODA-related policy templates.

6. Update Broader Public Sector Meeting

The Human Rights & Diversity Manager delivered a power point presentation: *Report Back from the Broader Public Sector*. These meetings provide opportunities to share best practices among AODA-complaint organizations. Overall, Ontario municipalities are to be credited for what they have been able to accomplish with regard to accessibility initiatives.

7. Next Meeting Date: January 28th, 2011.