

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Committee

Summary: September 24, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome Members

Nancy Simms welcomed committee members to the meeting, and introduced the presenter, Olga Dosis, AODA Coordinator, George Brown College.

2. Presentation: AODA, O. Reg. 429/07 Planning the Next Steps

The Proposed Integrated Accessibility Regulation has been released. Human Rights & Diversity invited Olga Dosis to attend the meeting and provide the committee with an update and overview on the PIAR and its implications for Colleges. Presentation slides are attached to this email. The presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period. The questions, answers and recommendations that were shared at the meeting are below:

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

How quickly will the College be expected to provide information in an accessible format once a request has been made?

The PIAR states that the material must be provided “within reasonable timelines.”

Some courses use external websites that students must access. How accessible are those expected to be?

The College must ensure that faculty know that all their materials must be available to students in an accessible format upon request.

What are some of the expected impacts of the PIAR?

We expect to see an increase in complaints. It is likely going to cause a lot of concerns for Human Rights, Diversity and Equity offices across the sector. It will be increasingly important to ensure that students are aware of the accessibility and human rights related resources provided to them by the College.

IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS:

- That the College create a formalized approach to providing employees with accommodations. The Ministry of Community and Social Services has an example of this. (See Resources)
- That the AODA revisit its Terms of Reference to increase its advisory role within the College, in order to effectively recommend accessibility initiatives to the Senior Team.
- That a standing item be added to AODA Committee Agenda to discuss AODA news in the province, and its implications for Humber College.
- That the College sends an email to all students regarding the accommodations available to them at the College.
- That the College hire accessibility consultants to assist the college in preparing for the Built Environments Standards.

- That the College adopt the principles of Universal Instructional Design in its policies, practices and operations.
- That Human Rights & Diversity coordinate the delivery of a workshop to faculty on “Providing Accommodations to Students.”

RESOURCES:

- How to Create Accessible Documents: A resource for Faculty
- WebAIM (webaim.org) Information on accessible websites
- WAVE: Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool (wave.webaim.org) A tool that will assess the accessibility of a website
- Ministry of Culture and Social Services (www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/accessibility/index.aspx) has examples of a formalized approach to providing accommodations to employees
- Martin Prosperity Institute: *Releasing Constraints: Projecting the Economic Impacts of Increased Accessibility in Ontario* (<http://www.martinprosperity.org/research-and-publications/publication/releasing-constraints>)

3. Next Meeting Date: November 26, 2010.