

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

REPORT 6-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Region of Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee (RNAAC), held in the Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on September 7, 2010, commencing at 12:30 p.m. in room Campbell East 101.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Geoff Eden, Chair, Krystine Donato, Christine Keith, Diann Krieger, Anita MacKenzie, Mary Lou Whitty, Griz Witlib

Committee

Regrets: Jean Bennett, Councillor Cindy Forster, Jocelyne Gagne, Ian Greaves, Carol Walker

Staff: Mary Eagles, Steve Murphy, Accessibility Advisory Coordinator, Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant, Judy Sobchak

Guests: Renee McKinley

Geoff Eden welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made around the table for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

56. Moved by Christine Keith
Seconded by Anita MacKenzie

That Agenda 6-2010, being the agenda for the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of September 7, 2010, be approved.

Carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

57. Moved by Diann Krieger
Seconded by Christine Keith

That Report 5-2010, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of June 30, 2010, be approved as distributed.

Carried.

PRESENTATIONS

58. Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Krystine Donato provided the committee with a presentation on “Guidelines and Resources for Communicating with People who have Communication Disabilities”. Several key items on communication were shown and a handout was provided.

REGIONAL NIAGARA ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR UPDATE

59. Chargeback Opportunities

Steve Murphy informed the committee of several agencies that have requested the AODA Customer Service Training. Included were Niagara College staff, Niagara Regional Police Services civilians, and Niagara Regional Housing.

60. Township of Wainfleet Correspondence

Mr. Murphy stated that the Federal government has funds available for municipalities to assist with enabling accessibility. Applications were invited for up to \$75,000 in grants from municipalities with less than 250,000 residents as well as not for profit agencies. The Township of Wainfleet has submitted a grant application for funds to install an accessible elevator at their Town Hall. Mr. Murphy on behalf of the Regional Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee provided a letter of support to accompany their application. The Township of Wainfleet thanked the committee for their support and will keep us informed of their progress.

61. American Sign Language (ASL)

An introductory course to American Sign Language is being offered to all regional employees. The course will be held on Wednesday nights beginning September 29th until December 1st from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Woodlands of Sunset Chapel, 920 Pelham Road, Welland, Ontario. A teacher from Brock University, Mario Pizzacalla, will be the instructor. The cost will be \$85 and employees must complete a Request to Attend a Staff Training Program/Conference form prior to registering with Steve Murphy. Space is limited and the registration deadline is September 22nd.

AODA STANDARDS UPDATE

62. The proposed accessibility standards were released on August 31, 2010. The committee was asked to review and provide feedback to Mr. Murphy by the end of September. The following articles were provided to the committee for review:

- Proposed Accessibility Requirements
- Proposed Compliance Enforcement Initiatives
- Proposed Timelines for Compliance with Accessibility Standards
- Backgrounder: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005
- Backgrounder: Compliance Assurance Framework

INFORMATION ITEMS

63. The following Summary of Information Items was reviewed and received.

AAC 76-2010	An article from the Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin dated July 16, 2010 entitled "Make sure your bathroom meets your family needs"
AAC 77-2010	An article from InsideHalton dated July 20, 2010 entitled "Town to five \$40K for Acton Town Hall upgrades"
AAC 78-2010	An article from the Toronto Star dated July 21, 2010 entitled "Campaign help urged for disabled candidates"
AAC 79-2010	An article from Toronto dated July 20, 2010 entitled "Accommodation lagging for handicapped candidates"
AAC 80-2010	An article from the Durham Business Times dated July 27, 2010 entitled "Durham groups receive Trillium grants"
AAC 81-2010	An article from the Kawartha Region dated July 27, 2010 entitled "Groups successful getting Trillium grants"
AAC 82-2010	An article from the Kawartha Region dated July 27, 2010 entitled "Accessibility information session scheduled"
AAC 83-2010	An article from Niagara Region dated July 28, 2010 entitled "On the books: By the book"
AAC 84-2010	An article from the Ottawa South dated July 29, 2010 entitled "2010 Election will be Ottawa's most accessible"
AAC 85-2010	An article from the Bloor West Villager dated August 3, 2010 entitled "Theatre group presents accessible performance"
AAC 86-2010	An article from the Fergus News Express dated August 3, 2010 entitled "Sportsplex Pad A construction on time, on budget"
AAC 87-2010	An article from the Mississauga News dated August 3, 2010 entitled "Grants up for grabs"
AAC 88-2010	An article from Guelph Mercury dated August 4, 2010 entitled "Festival organizers took good care of the disabled"
AAC 89-2010	An article from Stirling EMC dated August 19, 2010 entitled "RinC program converts Ivanhoe Hall to multi-use facility"

AAC 90-2010 An article from Northumberland Today dated August 19, 2010 entitled "Accessible transportation reaches parity with municipal system in Port Hope:

AAC 91-2010 An article from InsideHalton dated August 18; 2010 entitled "Town Advisory committee is active"

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Christine Keith that the Committee be adjourned at 2:15 p.m. to meet again on October 19, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

Geoff Eden
Chairperson

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Council Support