

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Terms of Reference

The Accessibility Advisory Committee shall assist in the preparation and implementation of an Accessibility Plan, provide guidance and address and identify the needs of the community by the removal and prevention of barriers in the City of Vaughan's by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services.

Background

The *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) was proclaimed on September 20, 2002. Its intent is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities through the identification, removal and prevention of physical and other barriers. The ODA includes specific requirements for all municipalities, including the development of an annual accessibility plan. Under the ODA, the annual accessibility plan must address the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in municipal by-laws, policies, practices, programs and services.

The Province's deadline for all municipalities to have their first Council approved Accessibility Plan is September 30, 2003. The ODA also requires that the Plan be made available to the public.

The ODA also requires that the City of Vaughan establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) to advise Council on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of the City of Vaughan's Accessibility Plan. Council appointed the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) in the fall of 2002.

Members

The Ontarians With Disabilities Act (the Act) mandates that a majority of the Committee members must be persons with disabilities. The Act defines a disability to mean,

- a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;
- b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;
- c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;
- d) a mental disorder; or
- e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*; ("handicap")

Meeting Schedule

The Committee meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month (except July and August) at 7:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT: Council Resolution, Item 1, SCW(CL) Report No. 6
Adopted at the Council meeting of January 25, 2011