

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

July 13, 2007

Michael Gottheil
Chair, Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario
400 University Avenue, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1T7

Dear Mr. Gottheil,

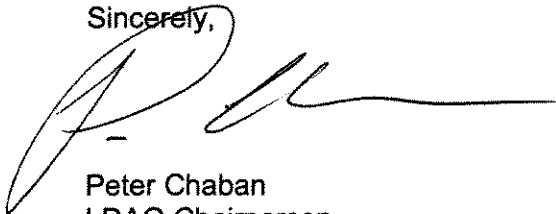
The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) is the provincial association representing the interests of persons with learning disabilities (LDs) throughout Ontario. Originally founded in 1963 to assist parents of children with learning disabilities to obtain access to special education services, the LDAO has expanded its mandate to include adolescents and adults who have learning disabilities, in postsecondary and employment sectors.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario has participated in many consultations over the last few years regarding the development of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA), the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and various policy documents of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC). In November 2006 we submitted a response to Bill 107 to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy of the Ontario Legislature, and a copy is attached.


In the LDAO response we stated that "at all stages of the complaints process, including the Tribunal hearing, there will need to be adequate time and funding allotted for the accommodation requirements of complainants with disabilities." We are particularly concerned that the needs of individuals with invisible disabilities, such as LDs, will go unrecognized in the planning stages for the Tribunal.

We would like to offer our input into the development of the new processes of the Human Rights Tribunal, in order that the accommodation needs of complainants with learning disabilities are taken into consideration. We would be happy to meet with you or your colleagues at a time of your convenience.

Sincerely,



Peter Chaban
LDAO Chairperson



Diane Wagner
Coordinator, Public Policy &
Client Services