Information and Communications Standards Development Committee (IC-SDC)
Meeting #1 – April 23 – 24, 2007

COMMUNIQUÉ

This Communiqué has been developed by the IC-SDC to share key meeting outcomes and next steps with committee members' organizations and constituencies.

Meeting #1 Highlights

During the two-day meeting, the IC-SDC:

- Agreed that the IC-SDC Members' Charter – which communicates how members will work together to develop a proposed standard – should include more details on ensuring accessible meetings.
- Received a presentation by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO) on the work of other SDCs, agreed that it will be important to ensure the work of the IC-SDC is integrated with the other standards being developed, and requested a description of the interaction between the various standards mandated by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.
- Received a presentation by a content expert in the area of accessible information and communications on the lessons learned from an inter-jurisdiction review. Key conclusions presented by the expert included: encourage innovation; harness progress rather than restricting it; apply the standard to the sectors Ontario is responsible for; provide an implementable standard that can be tested; and create a systemic culture of accessibility.
- Identified potential principles and long-term objectives to guide the standard development process and struck a sub-committee to refine these for review by the committee.
- Discussed key terms and scope considerations (Who the standard applies to? What information and communication activities the standard will address?) and requested the ADO and Canadian Standards Association to develop further material for committee review.
- Participated in an interactive demonstration of assistive technology at the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre on the University of Toronto campus.
- Received a presentation from KPMG on the proposed methodology for a costing and readiness assessment to be undertaken in support of the committee's work. Members agreed to provide additional input in response to a forthcoming request from KPMG.

Next Meeting – May 28-29, 2007

Key agenda items include:

- Presentation and discussion of barriers in the area of information and communications in Ontario;
- Continued discussion on scope, guiding principles and long-term objectives for the standard;
- Member presentations on sectoral information and communications practices and experiences;
- Discussion on standard type; and
- Agreement on a work plan to submit to the Minister.

For more information on the IC-SDC, its members, etc., please go to:
http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/pillars/accessibilityOntario/