

**LDAO SEAC CIRCULAR**

**September 2019**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) SEAC Circular is published 5 times a year, in September, November, February, April and June.

The following are some topics that your SEAC should be looking at. Action items and/or recommendations for effective practices will be underlined.

Feel free to share any of this information or the attachments with other SEAC members. As always, when you are planning to introduce a motion for the consideration of SEAC, it is particularly important that you share all related background items with your fellow SEAC reps.

As we start the new school year, we welcome a new Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce.

**The topics covered by this SEAC Circular:**

1. Planning for the coming year

2. AODA consultation on Information & Communications Standard

3. MACSE consultation

4. PAAC on SEAC Survey

**List of Supplementary Materials:**

1. PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar 2019-20

2. Information & Communications SDC Initial Recommendations Report

3. I-C SCD Initial Recommendations Report Phase 1 Survey Questions

4. I-C SCD Initial Recommendations Report Phase 2 Survey Questions

5. MACSE Collaboration Template

**Note:** You can access the SEAC Circular and supplementary materials at
[www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/](http://www.ldao.ca/about/public-policy-advocacy/seac-circulars/).

You can access Ministry funding (B & SB) memos by date at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/>

**1. Planning for the coming year**

The attached **PAAC on SEAC Annual Calendar** can be used to help plan SEAC activities over the coming school year. It is also available on the PAAC on SEAC website at: [www.paac-seac.ca/annual-calendar/](http://www.paac-seac.ca/annual-calendar/).

The *PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook* (2016) outlines effective practices to help SEACs develop an annual plan (see: **Section 3 SEAC Roles & Responsibilities,** <http://www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/section-3-seac-roles-and-responsibilities/3-1-annual-planning/> )

**2. AODA consultation on Information & Communications Standard**

The **Information and Communications Standards Development Committee’s Initial Recommendations Report** has been posted online for public comment. The comment period will close on **September 27, 2019.** Feedback will be used by the Committee to finalize its recommendations before they are submitted to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility.

You can read the report on the Ministry for Seniors & Accessibility website [**here**](https://www.ontario.ca/page/review-information-and-communications-standards-2019-initial-recommendations-report) or read the attached accessible Word version, [**I-C Standards Development Committee Initial Recommendations Report**](http://www.ldao.ca/wp-content/uploads/I-C-Standards-Development-Committee-Initial-Recommendations-Report-July-2019.docx)

The report contains 31 recommendations and is separated into **Phase 1** and **Phase 2**.

**Phase 1:** The committee developed and voted on 30 recommendations addressing the following key areas:

* the structure of the regulation
* feedback
* accessible formats, communications supports and websites
* information about emergency procedures and public safety
* educational resources and training
* libraries (including schools)

 **Phase 2** contains a proposal for culture change in Ontario. It outlines a new model that would transform and modernize how accessibility is regulated in the province, allowing organizations to continuously adapt and improve their websites, web content and technology up to and beyond 2025.

**Feedback** can be given on the Information and Communications Standards Development Committee’s Initial Recommendations Reportby completing **Phase 1 and 2** [**surveys**](https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-initial-recommendations-improve-accessibility-standards-information-and-communications)online, or by sending your feedback by email to icsdc@ontario.ca. **Deadline September 27, 2019**

For an opportunity to think about the questions before completing the surveys, you can read the attached Word versions of the **Phase 1 and 2 survey questions**.
[**I-C Standards Initial Recommendations Report Phase 1 Survey Questions**](http://www.ldao.ca/wp-content/uploads/I-C-Standards-Initial-Recommendations-Report-Phase-1-Survey-Questions.docx)
[**I-C Standards Initial Recommendations Report Phase 2 Survey Questions**](http://www.ldao.ca/wp-content/uploads/I-C-Standards-Initial-Recommendations-Report-Phase-2-Survey-Questions.docx)

For students with learning disabilities, the following Recommendations in **Phase 1** are especially significant:

Recommendation 5: Determination of Suitability (p. 11)

Recommendation 6: Timely Manner (p. 12)

Recommendation 24: Purchase of Accessible Teaching/Training Materials (p. 23)

Recommendation 27: Accessibility in Education (p. 24)

**Phase 2** proses a new model for regulating accessibility, which focuses on what is important and good about accessibility, rather than simply emphasizing that it is an obligation. It is also a more inclusive system, relying on input from the public and from stakeholders, including those organizations obligated to meet accessibility requirements. Finally, it is designed to evolve and adapt as technology and attitudes change around it.

*While the model is a bit complicated at first to understand, it is worth spending the time to read over the descriptions of Phase 2 and think about how this approach would change accessibility.*

I encourage SEACs to review the materials and submit a group feedback response to icsdc@ontario.ca

I also would urge individual SEAC members to complete the Feedback surveys, at: [www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-initial-recommendations-improve-accessibility-standards-information-and-communications](http://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-initial-recommendations-improve-accessibility-standards-information-and-communications)

**3. MACSE consultation**

The next meeting of the Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) will take place on October 23 – 24, 2019. MACSE representatives for different sectors gather feedback from their communities in advance of the meeting. Suzanne Bonneville represents the Learning Disabilities sector, and is collecting feedback in the format of the attached **MACSE Collaboration template.** While the date for submissions on the form is September 4th, Suzanne will accept feedback submitted to her in September.

LDAO SEAC members/alternates are requested to submit their feedback to dianew@LDAO.ca by **September 23rd**, so that I can combine the feedback into an LDAO response.

**4. PAAC on SEAC Survey**

PAAC on SEAC conducted surveys of SEAC members across Ontario in 2009 and again in 2014, to look at SEAC membership, practices and training needs. [Click here to read](http://www.paac-seac.ca/wp-content/uploads/PAAC-on-SEAC-Survey-Executive-Summary-2014.pdf) **PAAC on SEAC Survey 2014: Executive Summary & PAAC on SEAC Response**.

PAAC on SEAC will be conducting a similar survey this fall, so watch for an announcement and link to the new survey.

**Questions?** Email Diane Wagner at dianew@LDAO.ca