

PUBLIC POLICY ROUNDUP Fall 2010

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

On May 31, 2010, the Minister of Community & Social Services announced the development of an integrated accessibility regulation under the AODA that would combine standards for Information & Communication, Employment and Transportation. On September 1st the proposed **Integrated Accessibility Regulation** was released for public consultation until **October 16, 2010**. The proposed regulation includes accessibility requirements that are general, as well as specific requirements for information & communication, employment, and transportation. There are also compliance enforcement initiatives and timelines for compliance, from 2011 and 2025. Details can be read, and feedback given, from the following government website: www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=4142&language=en.

Unfortunately the [Accessibility Directorate website](#) no longer posts the original proposed standards for Information & Communications, Accessible Employment, and Transportation that the standards development committees submitted to the minister, so the public does not have an opportunity to see what may have been 'lost in translation'. Many members of the Information & Communication Standard Development Committee have been expressing concern about the changes to the document they submitted. The final proposed standards for Information & Communication and for Accessible Employment are available by contacting dianew@ldao.ca.

Final Report of the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions

In the Fall 2009 Public Policy Roundup we reported on the consultation of the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions, ***Every Door is the Right Door: Towards a 10-Year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy***. In August 2010 the committee released its final report, [***Navigating the Journey to Wellness: The Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Ontarians***](#). One of the key recommendations is to create a new umbrella organization—Mental Health and Addictions Ontario (MHAO), to coordinate service delivery to all age groups. This would mean that Children's Mental Health Centres would no longer be under the Ministry of Child and Youth Services. Such a change could be beneficial for transitioning between youth and adult mental health services, but other implications would need to be carefully considered.

Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario

In July the Ministry of Education released a resource document for educators on supporting students with special education needs through progressive discipline, [***Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario***](#). The document makes the important point that "to manage behaviour effectively, educators need to consider not just the behaviour itself – what the student is doing –

but also the underlying cause(s) of the behaviour.” Understanding student behaviour is framed primarily in terms of communications disorders, executive function disorders and mental health problems. The Alliance for Brain-based Disorders (ABDO), of which LDAO is a member, is disappointed that there is no mention of the underlying brain-based reasons for these behavioural issues. ABDO members believe that this lack of understanding on the part of educators can lead to use of inappropriate behaviour-management strategies.