



Public Policy Roundup

Spring 2017

Government of Canada Accessibility Consultation

Government of Canada is developing new accessibility legislation to promote equality of opportunity and increase the inclusion and participation of Canadians who have disabilities or functional limitations. A consultation process this winter, with in-person group sessions and an online survey, addressed the following issues:

- feedback on the overall goal and approach;
- whom it should cover;
- what accessibility issues and barriers it should address;
- how it could be monitored and enforced;
- when or how often it should be reviewed;
- how and when to report to Canadians on its implementation; and
- how to raise accessibility awareness more generally and support organizations in improving accessibility.

LDAO submitted a response to the survey questions, which you can read on our website at www.ldao.ca/ldao-services/public-policy-advocacy/responses-and-letters/

Government of Ontario commits to develop an Education Accessibility Standard

David Lepofsky of the AODA Alliance has been advocating for the development of an education accessibility standard for several years. On November 21, 2016, the AODA Alliance released a Discussion Paper on what an education standard should include (www.aodaalliance.org/strong-effective-aoda/11212016.asp.) and on December 5, 2016 it publicly released an open letter from twenty-two disability organizations to Premier Wynne, calling for the enactment of an Education Accessibility Standard.

On December 5, 2016, on the floor of the Legislature, Premier Kathleen Wynne responded to an opposition member's question by stating, "We recognize that there's more to be done, and there will be an education standard developed."

LDAO is watching for first steps in the process, such as the creation of an Education Standards Development Committee.

AODA Review of Information & Communications Standard

The Information & Communications Standard, Part 2 of ONTARIO REGULATION 191/11, Integrated Accessibility Standards, is in the process of being reviewed under provisions of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, which require review of the standards after

5 years. Diane Wagner represented LDAO on the original Information and Communications Standards Development Committee from 2007 to 2011, and has been asked to sit on a new Information and Communications Standards Development Committee, beginning with an orientation session on March 29, 2017.

Ministry of Education Consultation on Student Well-being

As part of its Well-Being Strategy for Education, the Ministry of Education has been holding consultations on student well-being. In the fall/winter of 2016-17, they consulted with community and education partners, including school boards, students and parents, to better understand what student well-being looks like, what is needed to support it, and how to measure progress.

The consultation period closed on March 19, 2017, and the ministry will now analyze the feedback received and determine the next steps for supporting student well-being. You can read LDAO's response to the consultation questions on our website at www.ldao.ca/ldao-services/public-policy-advocacy/responses-and-letters/

