

# Town of **MARKHAM** Accessibility Guidelines



**Presentation to  
General Committee**  
June 25<sup>th</sup> 2007

  
associated planning consultants

 **PLANNING &  
CONSULTING**  
CREATING INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL



# Agenda

- 1.0 Background – Provincial Legislation**
- 2.0 Project Description**
- 3.0 Guideline Revisions - Summary**
- 4.0 New Guidelines - Overview**
- 5.0 Future Directions**
- 6.0 Discussion: Q & A**

# 1.0 Background: Provincial Legislation

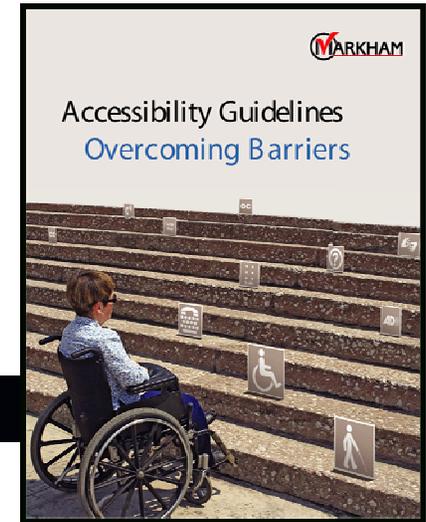
## A. Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)

- Develop an annual **Accessibility Plan** - identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- Consult with people with disabilities on accessibility issues – e.g., via **Markham's Accessibility Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACA)**;
- Make Accessibility Plan public.

## B. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)

- Jointly develop “**Accessibility Standards**” – areas to cover customer service, **transportation, information & communications, built environment and employment.**
- Implement in stages of five years or less – make Ontario accessible by 2025.

## 2.0 Project Description



**Goal:** Recognizing Provincial requirements and community expectations, Town of Markham will demonstrate continued leadership in addressing accessibility issues via an **Update of the Town’s “Accessibility Guidelines” (1997)**

### Key Objectives:

- Incorporate new accessibility criteria, standards, code requirements & “best practices”;
- Establish linkages to ODA / AODA requirements;
- Test Guidelines – starting point, see how guidelines impact Town facilities by conducting Accessibility Audits of the Town Civic Centre & Milliken Mills Community Centre; and
- Incorporate feedback from Staff and member’s of **Markham’s Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACA)**.

## 3.0 Guideline Revisions: Summary

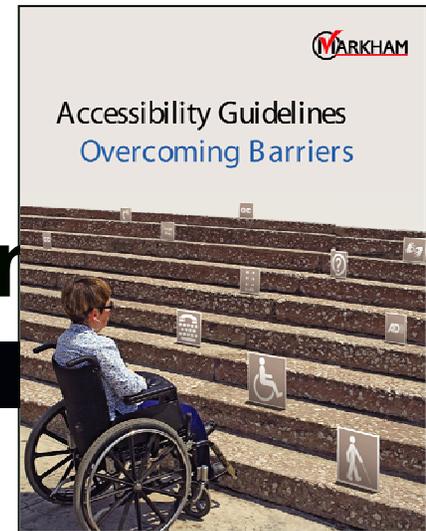
- **Broad Definition of Disability – Embrace Diversity & Inclusion;**
- **Incorporate the concept of Universal Design – designing for people of all ages and abilities;**
- **Topic re-organization - reflect AODA legislation;**
- **Guideline text fully reviewed and re-written;**
- **Repetition removed; and**
- **Technical accessibility criteria updates:**
  - ✓ Ontario Building Code updates (OBC 2006)
  - ✓ Canadian Standards Association’s “Accessible Design for the Built Environment” (CSA, 2004).
  - ✓ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 2004)
  - ✓ Other municipal guidelines and Best Practices (international)
  - ✓ Consultant’s experience (e.g., existing buildings versus new).

## 4.0 New Guidelines: “Overcoming Barriers”

- Title reflects the goal of this initiative and ongoing efforts of Town Staff and Accessibility Advisory Committee Members – A move towards Universal Access and Inclusion

### Application & Scope of Guidelines:

- ✓ **New** Facilities and Environments
- ✓ **Existing** Facilities & Environments
- ✓ Proposed **Renovations**
- ✓ **Maintenance** Projects



## 4.1 New Guidelines: Counter

- Address **all types of disabilities** – “universal”
- **Comprehensive** - 7 Sections:
  1. **Guideline Application & Implementation;**
  2. **Section A:** Exterior Environments;
  3. **Section B:** Interior Environments;
  4. **Section C:** Building Systems, Controls & Communications;
  5. **Section D:** Special Facilities, Spaces & Environments;
  6. **Section E:** Interior Design Issues, Facility Management & Maintenance Practices; and
  7. **Appendices** (Definitions, References, Supporting Documentation).

## **4.2 New Guidelines - Section A: Exterior Environments**

4 main topics, with multiple sub-sections:

- Arrival & Departure Areas
- Pedestrian Routes and approaches
- Level Changes
- Public Amenities

## **4.3 New Guidelines - Section B: Interior Environments**

4 main topics, with multiple sub-sections:

- Building Entrances & Reception
- Circulation – corridors, doors
- Level Changes – stairs, ramps, elevators
- Public Amenities - including washrooms, change rooms etc.

## **4.4 New Guidelines - Section C: Building Systems**

5 main topics, with multiple sub-sections

- Building Systems & Controls
- Fire & Life Safety Issues
- Lighting
- Communication Systems
- Signage & Wayfinding

## **4.5 New Guidelines - Section D: Special Spaces**

9 Major types of facilities covered, including:

- Assembly Areas (e.g., Theatres)
- Cafeterias
- Office Environments
- Cultural & Museum facilities
- Recreation (Arenas & Pools)
- Libraries

## 4.6 Additional Comments

Other sections cover broader issues related to:

- ✓ Colour contrast
- ✓ Textures & Finishes
- ✓ Facility Management & Maintenance
- ✓ Supporting Information (e.g., definitions)

**= Comprehensive Guidelines for Long Term Implementation**

## 5.0 Future Directions

- **Priority Upgrades to Civic Centre** – Washrooms and Elevators
- **Asset Management Department** intends to review all facilities to develop a formal Plan for barrier removal and prevention over both the short & long terms.
- **Markham Village Library** – Braille signage implementation.
- **Markham Museum** – Design Team Includes Accessibility Expertise.
- **Urban Design Department** – Additional Revisions to address broader planning & design issues, including proposed Stakeholder Consultation Sessions.

