

December 6, 2017

Dear Clerk,

As you know, under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), municipalities with 10,000 or more residents are required to have a Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee. The role of the Committees is to advise council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards, review site plans, and perform other functions as specified in the AODA. There are approximately 140 Committees across Ontario, with approximately 180 municipalities represented. These Committees are our vital partners in creating an accessible Ontario.

Under the AODA, the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario must review the standards of the Act. Although not legislatively required, the Directorate believes that a fulsome review of Accessibility Advisory Committees is warranted at this time. Following my announcement at the recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference, I am now pleased to inform you that the Directorate is moving forward with a consultation of the Accessibility Advisory Committees (including an online survey and focus groups).

This consultation will be conducted on behalf of the Directorate by The Strategic Counsel (a notable market research firm). The consultation, which will begin in January 2018, will be conducted over approximately five months. The goal of this consultation is to learn more about the work of Accessibility Advisory Committees, what conditions are required for them to be successful, and how the Directorate might better support Committees going forward.

If your municipality has an Accessibility Advisory Committee, you will be contacted shortly by The Strategic Counsel with more information on the upcoming consultation.

If you have any questions in the interim, please feel free to reach out to the Directorate directly.

Regards,

Alfred Spencer
Director, Accessibility Outreach, Education and Referral Branch
Accessibility Directorate of Ontario