

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, April 17, 2009				Report Date	Wednesday, April 8, 2009			
Decision Required	x	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction Only		Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE & NUMBER									
Accessibility Standards and Funding # 17/04/09/003									

Subject: Support for resolution of the City of Pembroke asking the province to reconsider the current requirements under the OADA OR at least provide additional funding for implementation.

Recommendation: That council passes the attached resolution and supports the City of Pembroke in requesting that the province take a step back and review the realistic financial implications for municipalities in implementing current and expected standards and/or provide a centralized processing centre for public and municipal use for document translation into accessible formats or other funding.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has established a Standards Development Committee under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA 2005)*;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the committee is to develop for Provincial legislative consideration sweeping standards in five areas including: customer service, transportation, information and communications, built environment and employment;

AND WHEREAS a provincial commissioned report by KPMG indicated that a small municipality would see an increase of 1% - 3% of its operating budget in order to comply with this one area – customer service, for our municipality \$10,000 - \$30,000;

AND WHEREAS although the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria is supportive of the concept of a fully accessible Ontario, the municipality has serious concerns about the cost implications of these standards especially in small municipalities and businesses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby support the resolution of the City of Pembroke in requesting that the Province and the Standards Development Committee table any standards currently under review and perform a full detailed review of the financial implications of implementation of the current and proposed standards justifying the costs considering current economic conditions;

AND FURTHER THAT should the Province not be inclined to accept this recommendation that the Province provide funding to support the implementation of legislated standards both now and in the future;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Premier Dalton McGuinty, The Minister of Community and Social Services, MPP John Yakabuski, the County of Renfrew, AMO and the City of Pembroke.

Background/Executive Summary: The attached letter from the City of Pembroke provides some background. A further challenge is that many of the specifics are still not available although we are required to be compliant by 2010. Questions abound, answers are non-existent.

We are required to ensure that persons with disabilities receive information at the same time as other citizens. The big question is about print information. The recent Municipal Monitor (AMCTO

publication) is quoted: "...Whether documents have to be provided in alternative formats on request or proactively in every instance was a key question..." One not answered. As yet, we do not know the answer.

The Standards Development Committee has resumed its meetings in order to review the public input and consider changes to the standard.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Major financial implications for the municipality due to the costs of proactively providing all public records and materials in accessible formats. The first standard deals solely with customer service. The province is still making recommendations about transportation, information and communications, built environment and employment. With a small tax base, conflicting obligations and challenges, this municipality would be hard pressed to be in full compliance with these regulations unless there are some amendments.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith