

## **14. ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

### *Purpose of the Standard*

*To provide the ministry with further details of the board's multi-year plan, which was previously submitted to the ministry, for improving accessibility for students with physical and sensory disabilities, and to provide the public with this information*

On September 30, 2002, proclamation brought into law the sections of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) which outline specific accessibility obligations on the part of the broader public sector. The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each school board prepare an annual accessibility plan. In response, the board has formed an Ontarians with Disabilities Act Steering Committee whose function is to develop a plan which includes the following:

### **Accessibility Planning Document**

- (a) Review recent initiatives and successes in identifying, removing and preventing barriers within your organization.
- (b) Identify (list/categorize) barriers that may be addressed in the coming year.
- (c) Set priorities and develop strategies to address barrier removal and prevention.
- (d) Specify how and when progress is to be monitored.
- (e) Write, approve, endorse, submit, publish and communicate the plan.
- (f) Review and monitor the plan.

### **Multi-year Capital Expenditure Plan**

New school buildings, grounds, and administration offices are built to comply with the Ontario Building Code 1997. All new construction meets the Accessibility requirements in part three of the code. By using the Canadian Standards Association Barrier-free Design Standards and other resources in addition to the Ontario Building Code, all new buildings exceed the requirements. These expenses are not costed out separately but are included in the tender process. In addition the Physical Planning and Building Committee which is a standing committee of the Board includes accessibility improvements in its Facility Renewal Projects. At this time a detailed plan is being prepared for the expenditure of \$5,128,695.

### **Public Access**

Minutes of the Physical Planning and Building Committee are approved by the board and are available on the Peel District School Board website. The Board's Special Education Plan includes information regarding specific accessibility expenditures and is available on the Peel District School Board website.

### **Inclusions:**

- 1. Grants for Improved Access for Special Education Pupils: a summary of expenditures.
- 2. Present Level of Accessibility of School Facilities

