

For Immediate Release
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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT MOVES FORWARD ON ACCESSIBILITY *Minister Announces Recruitment For New Accessibility Standards Advisory Council*

QUEEN'S PARK – The McGuinty government is moving forward with implementation of its landmark accessibility legislation by recruiting members for the new Accessibility Standards Advisory Council, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Dr. Marie Bountrogianni announced today.

“This government is committed to implementing the new accessibility legislation in a timely manner,” Bountrogianni said. “With this step, we are on the path to creating an accessible Ontario, where our quality of life is enriched by the inclusion of all, and our economy benefits from the contribution of all.”

The Accessibility Standards Advisory Council will advise the minister on the development of standards, public information programs and other matters. Membership for the council will be drawn from the broader public and private sectors. The majority of council members will be people with disabilities.

Implementation of the act will see government working with the disability community and the private and public sectors to jointly develop standards in stages of five years or less, leading to a fully accessible Ontario in 20 years. Standards will be set in both the public and private sectors to address the full range of disabilities – including physical, sensory, mental health, developmental and learning. New standards could include:

- Accessible pedestrian routes and entrances into buildings
- Lower counter heights at cash registers to accommodate wheelchairs
- Large print menus in restaurants for the visually-impaired
- Staff training in serving customers with learning disabilities.

Individuals interested in the position of chair or vice-chair, or general membership on the council, are invited to submit an application to the Public Appointments Secretariat. The deadline for chair and vice-chair applications is July 29, 2005. The deadline for applications for council membership is August 19, 2005. Please see the Public Appointments Secretariat website at <http://www.pas.gov.on.ca/scripts/en/advertPositions.asp>

For additional information on the position of chair or vice-chair, or membership on the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council, or for application packages in alternate formats, please call toll-free 1-888-520-5828 or toll-free TTY 1-888-335-6611.

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