



September 24, 2012

Mr. Glen Padassery  
Senior Manager  
Standards Policy and Coordination Branch  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
777 Bay Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Suite 601A & Suite 601B  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J4

**Re: Response Letter on the Ontario Regulation made under the  
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005  
amending Ontario Regulation 191/11**

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), I would like to thank the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the new Public Space Standards put forward for public input. We are encouraged by the Ministry's efforts to ensure accessibility of public open spaces is available to all Ontarians.

In general, we believe the proposed reforms to the AODA will further support the Institute's longstanding position on planning and urban design policies affecting health, accessibility and aging in place issues as contained in the Institute's Call for Action publications on Sustainable, Healthy Communities, and Age Friendly Communities. ([www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/Publications/innovativepolicypapers.aspx#healthycommunities](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/Publications/innovativepolicypapers.aspx#healthycommunities))

While we agree with the recommended amendments to the Ontario Regulation 191/11, as well as with the proposed Design of Public Spaces Standards, we respectfully submit the following comments and recommendation for your consideration as the Ministry reviews and finalizes its policies:

- Right-of-Way Accessibility regulations should include additional right of way elements to include but not be restricted to sidewalks and pedestrian crossings, as well as public transit shelters and stops accessibility regulations;
- Outdoor Public Use regulations should include playground areas, community mail box areas, door and gates, and drinking fountains accessibility regulations;
- Recreational Trails and Beach Accessibility regulations should include other elements such as, but not restricted to, camping facilities, overlooks, grills, storage facilities for assistive devices, trash and recycling containers, utilities and utility sinks; and,
- Broader community urban design standards that encourage short trip accessibility to community amenity areas.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Our almost 4,000 members work in government, private practice, universities, and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. Our Members have met strict practice requirements and are accountable to OPPI and the public to practice ethically and to abide by a Professional Code of Practice. Only Full Members are authorized by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Act, 1994, to use the title "Registered Professional Planner" (or "RPP"). [www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important process. Should you require further information or follow up, please contact Loretta Ryan, MCIP, RPP, Director, Public Affairs at the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. She can be reached at [policy@ontarioplanners.on.ca](mailto:policy@ontarioplanners.on.ca) or 416-668-8469.

Yours very truly,



Scott Tousaw, MCIP, RPP  
Chair, Policy Development Committee  
Ontario Professional Planners Institute