March 27th, 2008.

Municipalities of Ontario

Dear Councils:

City of Port Colborne Resolution Re Provincial Funding to Offset Municipal Costs Relating to Compliance with O.Reg. 429/07

At its meeting of March 25th, 2008, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 429/07 under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 establishes accessibility standards for customer services which apply to every designated public sector organization, including municipalities, and others that provide goods or services to members of the public or other third parties;

AND WHEREAS designated public sector organizations, including municipalities, must comply with the accessibility standards established by O.Reg. 429/07 by January 1, 2010;

AND WHEREAS, in order to comply with O.Reg. 429/07, public sector organizations, including municipalities must by January 1, 2010 establish policies, practices and procedures governing the provision of their goods or services to persons with disabilities in a manner that respects the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities; enables persons with disabilities to obtain use or benefit from the goods or services; and gives persons with disabilities equal opportunity to obtain, use and benefit from the goods or services;

AND WHEREAS, in order to comply with O.Reg. 429/07, public sector organizations, including municipalities, must by January 1, 2010 prepare document(s) describing such policies, practices and procedures and make available a copy of any such document(s) free of charge;

AND WHEREAS, in order to comply with O.Reg. 429/07, public sector organizations, including municipalities, must by January 1, 2010 prepare document(s) that set out the steps to be taken in connection with the temporary disruption of the provision of goods and services to persons with disabilities and the giving of notice in connection with such disruption of service;

AND WHEREAS, in order to comply with O.Reg. 429/07, every provider of goods or services, including municipalities, must ensure that every person who deals with members of the public or participates in developing the provider=s policies, practices and procedures receives training about the provision of its goods or services to persons with disabilities and maintain records of such training and provide such training on an ongoing basis;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the City of Port Colborne supports the objectives of Ontario Regulation 429/07 and believes that persons with disabilities have a right to equal opportunity to attain the same level of performance or to enjoy the same level of benefits and privileges experienced by persons without disabilities;
AND WHEREAS the Council of the City of Port Colborne believes that the requirement that the provisions of O.Reg. 429/07 be implemented at the municipal rather than provincial level imposes an inequitable per capita financial burden on small municipalities and other public sector organizations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1) The Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne call upon the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to petition for and work with the Province of Ontario on the development and provision of a proper and fair provincial funding mechanism to assist municipalities and other provincially funded public sector organizations in complying with the provisions of O.Reg. 429/07 so that the financial burden imposed by the Regulation is fairly shared by all the residents of Ontario;

2) That all municipalities in Ontario be requested to support this resolution and to advise A.M.O. and their relevant provincial representatives accordingly;

3) That P. Kormos, M.P.P. be so advised.

The above noted resolution is being circulated to all municipalities in Ontario and your favourable consideration of Council's request for support would be greatly appreciated.

Janet Beckett
City Clerk.
City of Port Colborne

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