

November 3rd, 2022

RE: AODA Fourth Review Feedback

On behalf of the [Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists \(OSOT\)](#), we would like to provide feedback for the fourth review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Participation in this review is important to our organization as accessibility barriers can prevent individuals from engaging in their day-to-day activities.

Occupational Therapists (OTs) are regulated healthcare professionals that work in many settings such as schools, clinics, hospitals, home care, primary care, rehabilitation, and many more. OTs can effectively assess environments for both safety and accessibility.

However, not all spaces are created with accessibility in mind. We would like to put forth some recommendations, with the consultation of members and staff, to inform the fourth review of the AODA.

1. Potential changes to improve the AODA's success

- a. Address and implement recommendations from the [\(previous\) third review \(2020\)](#);

2. Spreading awareness and building community support

- a. Acknowledge accessibility in rural/Northern communities
 - i. Residents with disabilities will have ease of access (free transportation) to healthcare facilities;
 - ii. Areas surrounding residents with disabilities require redeveloped safety measures/standards;

3. Compliance and enforcement

- a. Residential space redevelopment and construction
 - i. Construction companies and developers must be required to offer a percentage of accessible units (and meet the criteria of "[visitability](#)")
 - ii. Public "spaces" in residential dwellings (entry, lobby, elevators, laundry room, garbage rooms, social rooms, parking) need to be fully accessible
 - iii. Accessibility standards applied to renovated rental units.

OSOT appreciates the opportunity to participate in this review and is open to discussing our recommendations further. Should any questions arise, please reach out to mlofsky@osot.on.ca.

Thank you,



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