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## Is your Office set up for Ontario 2025 Accessibility?

Ontario is on a quest to make the province much more accessible for everyone including anyone who is either temporarily or permanently disabled. And they have set a deadline of 2025. Firms that have been charged with an office relocation, expansion or renovation, will have to consider the following list of proposed Building Codes Changes.

McGregor Design Group's work on committees in the Province provides their clients with invaluable insight:

*"The objective is to provide equal dignity and democratic access to all citizens, explains Lynn McGregor, principal of McGregor Design Group. It should no longer be considered good enough to provide access at a back door, by the dumpsters, for someone in a wheelchair. The goal is to ensure that a handicapped individual can enter and experience a space, the same way an able bodied individual can. To their credit, the province has spent considerable time on consultations with stakeholder groups, including those representing the disabled, builders, developers, designers and owners of property; in a quest to get a good balance between accessible improvement, and the impact of those changes on others, (fiscal, logistical, etc.)."*

The following are a few of the changes being considered by the Province of Ontario:

- Travel Corridors may well be wider
- Minimum Door Widths will likely Increase
- Turning Radius of Wheelchairs will increase
- Handicapped Washrooms will require Assistance Alarms
- Stairs May be Easier to Negotiate
- Ramp Inclines may be mandated to be more gentle
- When Renovating- the suggestion is to Go Barrier Free
- Visual Fire Alarms are being considered

More details: [here](#)

*"The net impact of the proposed changes appears on the surface to be that requirements will take more space to accommodate, than they did before, says Lynn McGregor. But if offices are professionally designed to allow spaces to assume more than one function, (i.e.: multi-purpose area), it could offset the space impact considerably. The objective is to ensure that your facility is as leading edge, supportive and appropriate as possible. And that you are not always playing the expensive game of "catch-up"."*

Many of the proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code are already law in other areas of our world. If Ontario is to be a more accessible province by 2025, all citizens need to embrace change at a more rapid rate that have been done in the past.

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### About McGregor Design Group

The McGregor Design Group was founded in 1988 by registered Interior Designer Lynn McGregor, in a quest to provide a special type of high quality design service that clients had been seeking; but not finding. By volunteering on committees and councils that help lobby for positive change, municipally, provincially and federally, the McGregor Design Group gains perspective on the future, and can prepare clients for new legislation, well in advance of deadlines.

#### More information:

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