



City of Peterborough

500 George Street North, Peterborough Ontario, K9H 3R9

Alf Spencer, Director
Accessibility Directorate of Ontario
601A - 777 Bay Street
Toronto Ontario M7A 2J4

Dear Alf Spencer, Director of the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO),

The City of Peterborough's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), would like to express their concern following a recent decision by the Human Rights Tribunal. The Human Rights Tribunal ruled in favour of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board to not allow an Autism Assistance animal to be present in the classroom with a student.

The AAC's concern is that the decision represents a setback for education in Ontario since school boards can apply the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act at their own discretion, allowing ableist decision-making and policies to be implemented in schools.

By way of this letter, the AAC is asking the (ADO) to keep the above decision front and centre when developing the Education Standard under the AODA. It is our hope that this barrier will be eliminated in the education system by way of an AODA Education Standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Keith Riel".

Councillor Keith Riel
Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee
City of Peterborough
kriel@peterborough.ca