



REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

FOLLOWING CHRIST IN MISSION

TERRY A. DE YOUNG

COORDINATOR FOR DISABILITY CONCERNS

4500 60th Street SE • Grand Rapids, MI 49512

(616) 541-0855 • Fax (616) 698-6606 • tdeyoung@rca.org • www.rca.org/disability

March 1, 2014

To: Classis of Ontario RCA
From: RCA Disability Concerns and Disability Concerns Canada
Subject: Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

As you may know, the Ontario government has enacted the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) that imposes a variety of regulations on churches. The requirements of this act have a gradual phase-in, and church compliance began in 2012 and will continue in phases through 2017.

RCA Disability Concerns and CRC Disability Concerns have collaborated to spell out what steps are necessary for Ontario churches to be in compliance with the AODA.

To learn more about what this means for your church, go to www.rca.org/aoda.

If it would be helpful to speak with someone directly, you may contact Heather DeBoer at the CRC office in Burlington (hdeboer@crcna.org, or call 800-730-3490 and ask for Heather DeBoer).

Stiff fines can be imposed on a church for noncompliance. Even though in many ways your church may be accessible and welcoming to persons with disabilities, the AODA *legislates and formalizes such accessibility*. Your church is now expected to provide training in such accessibility, ensure that standards are met and maintained, and be ready to demonstrate compliance.

We are at your service as you seek to comply with the regulations of the AODA. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with Heather at the CRC office in Burlington if you have questions.

Yours in Christ,

Terry A. DeYoung, RCA Coordinator for Disability Concerns
John Cook, chair, Disability Concerns Canada