Human Resources Legislative Update

AODA Accessible Built Environment: Consultation Paper on Proposed Changes to Building Code Released

Date: January 9, 2013

The Ontario government has released a consultation paper on proposed changes to the barrier-free design requirements of Ontario's *Building Code*. The proposed *Building Code* changes arise from the development of built environment accessibility standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 ("AODA"). The consultation process focuses on certain key accessibility requirements, including:

- Renovations
- Barrier-free path of travel (common access and circulation)
- Vertical access (elevators)
- Visitable suites in multi-unit residential buildings
- Adaptable design and construction
- Visual fire alarms
- Washrooms
- Use of educational materials and resources

As previously reported, the AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards regulation was recently amended with the addition of new built environment standards on the design of public spaces.

The government has invited comment on the consultation paper and potential technical changes, to be received no later than March 1, 2013.