



# University of Toronto

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Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Campus and Facilities Planning

## FOR INFORMATION:

**TO:** Planning and Budget Committee

**SPONSOR:** Elizabeth Sisam, Assistant Vice-President, Campus and Facilities Planning

**CONTACT INFO:** 416-978-5515; avp.space@utoronto.ca

**DATE:** May 10, 2007 for May 22, 2007

**AGENDA ITEM:** 9 (a)

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report on Barrier Free Access.

## JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Planning and Budget Committee receives reports for information.

## PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Accommodations and Facilities Directorate (AFD) Standing Committee on Barrier Free Accessibility is required to report annually to the Planning & Budget Committee of the Academic Board.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

A number of highlights, all of which have or will contribute significantly to the improvement of accessibility on our campuses, are briefly summarized below.

## SACWAC & AFD Partnerships:

Two partnerships between SACWAC (a committee of the University of Toronto Students' Union) and AFD have been established. The first of these was originally established in 1999 for a period of three years and renewed twice, now ending in June, 2008. The intent of the partnership was for both parties to each contribute \$30,000 per annum and to agree on a number of small projects that would improve accessibility on all campuses. A second partnership is directed to larger projects and follows the same arrangements between the two partners for a period of five years, which began in 2002 and continues to 2007 where each partner contributes \$70,000 per year for each of the five years. Students submit projects to the SACWAC Committee for consideration. Each year the Chair of SACWAC forwards projects to AFD that have been identified as high priority by the standing committee of students. These projects in high traffic areas of student activity or addressing special circumstances receive funding under the joint partnership agreements. Funding remains available to support additional projects that address student need.

## Other Funding

Contributions are also made by Divisions, Facilities and Services, and Campus and Facilities Planning towards renovation of many projects that require additional funding for accessibility.

Projects implemented this past year are identified below:

### A. St. George Campus

Door Operators:	
- 263 McCaul Street (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor)	\$15,000
- Robarts Library (7 <sup>th</sup> Floor)	\$24,700

- 155 College Street (bridge) \$6,500

Signage

Exterior Handicap Accessible Entry and Building Identification \$102,000

Innis College

The first phase of a multi-phased plan for Innis College has included an elevator in September, 2006, making the east wing of the College accessible. The cost of the elevator in the first phase of renovations was approximately \$853,000.

Examination Centre

A project planning report recommending a dedicated examination facility, co-locating Accessibility Services Testing/Exam Centre with central examination facilities has been approved. The new facility, which will provide 105 accessible examination spaces is planned to open in early 2008. The accessible testing facility and other elements of the project contributing to accessibility have been estimated to cost \$3 million.

Accessibility Review

The Office of Campus and Facilities Planning continues to review buildings under the initiatives set out by the Office of the Vice-President, Human Resources. Academic buildings on the St. George Campus were reviewed last year and the findings are being documented. This summer the review will extend to residences.

**B. University of Toronto at Mississauga**

Improvements to ramps

- South Building, North Building entrance and CCT \$6,600  
- Improved door opening/closing devices \$16,450

Signage \$1,850

Creation of designated "smoking-free zones" with 9 metre building entrance restrictions for persons with breathing disabilities \$800

Improvements to paths and routes \$2,400

Installation of large format scanner for Visually impaired in HMALC \$3,800

Improvements to Adaptive Technology Laboratory HMALC \$4,000

**C. University of Toronto at Scarborough**

-Safety mirrors in elevators and door operators \$18,780

-Humanities wing elevator \$ 9,650

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

Funding for accessibility projects are derived from a number of sources. Funding has been provided by the AFD/SACWAC Partnerships, AFD and SACWAC, Facilities and Services, and Campus and Facilities Planning. ZOOM Funds, with the enthusiastic support of Student Affairs,

have also contributed significantly to assist these improvements across campus. In addition, faculties and/or Colleges also provide financial support for initiatives included in projects that occur within their divisions. This support often provides the additional funding necessary to enhance design for implementation of accessible initiatives.

New capital projects are designed to meet the Ontario Building Code legislation and the University's own design standards both of which address accessibility. The costs of these provisions are included within the overall project budget and are not identified as separate items.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This item is for information only.