



#2-Accessibility in Public Spaces

DATE: Wednesday, October 9th, 2013 TIME: 3:30 pm

LOCATION: Webster

GUEST SPEAKERS: Mr. James Douglas - MMAH, Ms. Brenda Lewis - MMAH, Mr. Chris Thompson - MMAH, Mr. Geordie Gibbion - Ministry of Economic Development

DESCRIPTION: Geordie Gibbion, Program Advisor - Accessibility Directorate of Ontario - Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment | Brenda Lewis, Director - MMAH | James Douglas, Manager - MMAH | Chris Thompson, Manager - MMAH

BIOGRAPHY: Mr. James Douglas, Manager

James Douglas is the Manager of the Development Policy and Innovation Unit of the Building and Development Branch at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He has responsibility for policy development and the operation of the Building Code Commission and the Building Materials Evaluation Commission.

James has a B.A.(hon.) from Queen's and an M.A. from McMaster, both in urban geography. James has been employed by the province since 1989. He first worked as a program coordinator delivering non-profit housing with the Ministry of Housing. He then occupied a number of policy positions with the Ministries of Housing, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Community and Social Services.

BIOGRAPHY: Ms. Brenda Lewis, Director

Current

Director, Building and Development Branch at Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Past

Director at Ministry of Community and Social Services

Director, Standards Policy and Coordination at Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

Education

Queen's University 2011 - 2011

BIOGRAPHY: Mr. Chris Thompson, Co-ordinator

Chris Thompson has worked for the ministry for 23 years and is a professional planner with a Master's Degree in Planning from the University of Toronto.

In his current position as Brownfields Co-ordinator, Chris is responsible for facilitating the

re-use and redevelopment of former industrial and commercial lands through working with Ministries, municipalities, and stakeholders on strategic reforms to Ontario policies and programs.

Chris has a broad experience in housing, planning, and municipal matters. Prior to taking on the Brownfields portfolio, Chris was Manager of the Urban Affairs Section of MMAH, Executive Advisor to the Deputy Minister, and Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister. Earlier in his career with MMAH, Chris worked as an area planner for a number of Eastern Ontario counties, was involved in the wrap-up of the former Ataratiri project, was a senior policy advisor in the ministry's Market Housing Branch, and also worked as a planner in the former Rental Housing Protection Program.

BIOGRAPHY: Mr. Geordie Gibbion, Program Advisor

Geordie Gibbon is a Program Advisor at the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, working in the Public Education and Partnerships Unit. The Public Education and Partnerships Unit is responsible for increasing awareness and understanding of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, (AODA), 2005. Through the Enabling Change Program, the unit develops educational tools and special projects to help our province reach its goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025.