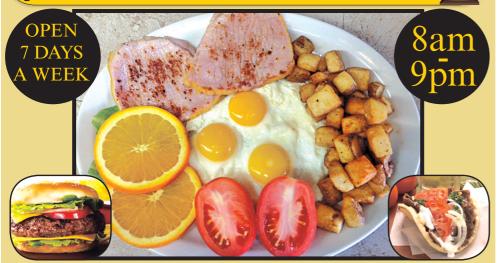
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#### **COMMENT**

### Action is needed on AODA legislation

According to the calendar, Ontario is half way to "full accessibility" under The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

But are we really halfway there?

Much is yet to be done before the deadline of 2025 is realized.

Recently, David Lepofsky, from the AODA Alliance and former Lieutenant Governor David Onley, both men living with disability spoke on TVO's Agenda hosted by Steve Paikin. Mr. Onley was especially candid when asked about the state of accessibility in Canada calling it a disgrace.

Mr. Lepofsky and the Alliance have been critical of the government and are calling for action on a variety of issues surrounding the current status of the AODA legislation. Both feel the government has had more than enough consultation from a wide spectrum within the disabled community so that action, not further study, contemplation, or **Q** reflection, is required.

A report compiled by Mayo Moran, Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto reviewing the AODA is scheduled to be tabled in the Ontario Legislature when the House sits in February. It is hoped this report will have specific recommendations



#### **Andrew Tutty**

to get the government moving and back on

Mr. Onley also questioned the absence of a minster responsible for accessibility issues for persons with disabilities in the government's caucus.

A minister whose portfolio is specific to disability in Ontario is long overdue. Persons with disabilities represent the largest single minority, 1.8 million, and affect all society regardless of socio-economic, ethnic, religious, race, sexual orientation, or gender.

Disability is an equal opportunity lifechanging event. These are issues none of us can afford to ignore because the ranks of the disabled continue to grow as we all age. It may not affect your life now, but the odds are it someday will.

Watch video at: https://m.youtube.com/ watch?v=0JRhfg4U9Us

Andrew Tutty is a member of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee

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