The AODA and You . . . Get Ready!
Part 1

What is the AODA?  Who does it apply to?  What does it require me to do?
Why bother?  What does it mean for me?  When does it come into effect?

DESIGNABLE ENVIRONMENTS Inc. is a consultation firm that provides expertise to public and private sector clients, on how to design the built environment to meet the needs of all people, including persons with disabilities and the elderly. Founded in 1987, the company combines expertise in the areas of architectural design, ergonomics and occupational therapy to provide our clients with a unique service that considers the needs of all persons who use buildings and landscapes.

As an organisation, DESIGNABLE ENVIRONMENTS Inc. has been instrumental in developing and popularising the philosophies of barrier-free and universal design. Our interdisciplinary approach ensures that project team members’ gain a true understand of the complexities, challenges and opportunities associated with accessibility issues.

**Bob Topping** is a Canadian architect and member of the Global Alliance for Accessible Environments and Technologies (GAATES). He has focused his work on accessibility issues and universal design through his consulting company, DESIGNABLE ENVIRONMENTS Inc.

Bob has worked on many projects in Canada including the Air Canada Centre, Ricoh Coliseum and the Four Seasons Center for the Performing Arts. As the author of numerous municipal accessibility design standards, and through his work on technical committees for both Canadian and international accessibility standards, Bob has extensive experience in legislation and standards development.

Bob has authored and presented papers on accessibility and universal design at local, national and international conferences and workshops. He also teaches courses on accessibility and universal design within undergraduate programs at the University of Toronto and the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning.

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