

Message from the Fire Marshal

January 14, 2013

TO: All Concerned Stakeholders

I am very pleased to invite you to participate in a consultation on the implementation of our Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations to enhance fire safety in occupancies housing seniors, people with disabilities and vulnerable Ontarians. We are hosting a web-based public consultation on a comprehensive package of fire safety enhancements, including amendments to both the Fire Code and Building Code, and will be accepting comments between January 14, 2013, and February 28, 2013.

This consultation focuses on care and care and treatment occupancies that provide housing or other accommodations for seniors and vulnerable Ontarians. These are occupancies where residents receive special or supervisory care because of cognitive or physical limitations, and include, but are not limited to:

- Retirement homes;
- Mental health centres for children and youth;
- Domiciliary hostels;
- Supportive housing for people with physical or cognitive disabilities; and,
- Residential schools for the deaf, blind, deaf/blind, and learning disabled.

They also include occupancies that provide special care and treatment, including:

- Long-term care homes (includes nursing homes and homes for the aged);
- Homes for special care; and,
- Hospitals.

Residents of these occupancies have specific needs during fire emergencies. The recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee build on our previous public consultation and support the government's commitment to improve fire safety in occupancies housing seniors, people with disabilities and vulnerable residents. I am grateful to the Technical Advisory Committee for their time and effort in arriving at such well thought out recommendations. If implemented, these changes will help us reach our objective of having a long-term fire safety strategy through enhanced inspections, training and fire safety retrofits.

The primary platform for the consultation is the internet. We encourage you to provide feedback by using the online comment form. For your convenience, Abode Acrobat file format comment forms are available for downloading. You may also send your comments by mail, fax or email, as indicated on the website.

Your input is vital to ensuring the safety of vulnerable Ontarians, and we look forward to hearing your views on this important issue.

Tadeusz (Ted) Wieclawek
Fire Marshal of Ontario