

THE ACCESSIBILITY CANADA ACT

In October, during National Fire Prevention Week, a meeting was held in Ottawa, involving The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, and The National Research Council, Chaired by Phillip Rizcollah.

The discussion was based on the implementation of the Accessibility Canada Act (Bill C-81), which has been Legislated, and Ratified by every Province and Territory, and has **NOT** been Grandfathered, as it was meant to be implemented immediately, to assist the estimated 3.8 Canadians affected (14% of Canada's Population)

Part of the discussion was based on Accountability, and Enforcement, which now, will begin to be a focus, and will involve all aspects of every Building, including Safety Signage, which has been Legislated since 2010 to be the I.S.O. PICTOGRAM "THE RUNNING MAN", and replace EXIT or SORTIE SIGNS. This Mandate was to eliminate all Language barriers, and guarantee Equal Safety Expectations for all Canadians. (58% of Canadians have English as a First Language, 22% have French), as Canadians actually speak over 90 different Languages. (Source: STATISTICS CANADA)

As a result of the discussion on Accessibility Canada Act, the lack of enforcement was addressed, as in the case of The Running Man Signs, it has been almost 10 years since the Legislation passed.

The Legislation, like all new Building Code changes, allows for a Grandfathered time period, for the changeover, however the Accessibility Act, does not, and the Running Man signs are part of this Act. As such, Fire Officials across Canada will now begin enforcing the Legislation as per the Legislation, which means:

- ALL NEW CONSTRUCTION, or
- ANY RETROFIT, OR ANY RENOVATION, or
- ANY ALTERATION TO A BUILDING, THAT REQUIRES EITHER A BUILDING, AND/OR AN OCCUPANCY PERMIT,

Must replace the EXIT and/or SORTIE SIGN, with THE RUNNING MAN, or OCCUPANCY must be denied.

As most people know, The Accessibility Act has teeth, and is very much adhered to. To be truthful, we do not really know how fast, or how diligent the sign enforcement will be, but they will most definitely be a higher priority.

So, what to do?

Most of our Clients have multiple locations in different Jurisdictions, so it is very doubtful that there will be a huge, immediate impact, however, there will be a need to change your signs, and soon. Then you have a choice.

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25 YEARS

NO

YES

NO

NO

YES

YES

YES

YES

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GHG EMISSIONS

CARBON TAX

EPA RECOMMENDED

LEED APPROVED

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ALWAYS WORK

LED

\$250 - \$750

1 YEAR

YES

NO

YES

YES

NO

NO

NO

NO

The Choice is Obvious!

Many of our Clients, who have Sub-Contractors, who handle the Maintenance, allow them to do whatever is required to keep the premises Safe, and to stay to Code. We often supply signs to the Sub-Contractors, instead of, as in the old days, where they would simply replace a broken sign, with another, instead of using our signs. Now when our signs are installed, there are immediate Savings and, for 25 Years, no more expenses This adds up to a lot of money!

A Maintenance or Retrofit Program is very easy and inexpensive to coordinate. PL Solutions will only offer our 2 FOOT CANDLE SIGN that is to Code for the maximum 120 Days (although our ULC Testing proved we stay illuminated to Code Level for over 3 days.) We are the only PL Company to have achieved this UL/ULC Standard, which guarantees that we are the Safest Sign on the Market, and we are as the E.P.A. stated "The Best Available Option."

We have installed over 100,000 Signs across Canada, and never had a return. Our Client base is outstanding, and we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to review your needs, and see if we can help.

Thank You

Bob McIntosh
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