

Ministry of Health and
Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée



Corporate and Direct Services Division
Individual Eligibility Review Branch

Division des services directs et ministériels
Direction de l'examen de l'admissibilité des cas individuels

3rd Floor, 5700 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

3^e étage, 5700 rue Yonge
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Telephone: (416) 327-8109
Toll Free: 1-866-811-9893
Facsimile: (416) 327-8912
Toll Free 1-866-598-6530

Téléphone: (416) 327-8109
Sans frais: 1-866-811-9893
Télécopieur: (416) 327-8912
Sans frais: 1-866-598-6530

Email Address/Courriel: IndividualEligibilityReview.moh@ontario.ca
Internet: www.health.gov.on.ca

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OCT 10 2008

Mr. Don Kinsley
Chair, Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee
13 – 575 Thornton Road North
Oshawa ON L1J 8L5

Dear Mr. Kinsley:

I am responding to your letter dated September 19, 2008 requesting an update on the Assistive Devices Program's (ADP) consultation with its Sensory Standing Committee regarding visual smoke detectors for the deaf, deafened and hard of hearing.

At its August 2008 meeting, the Sensory Standing Committee was asked for its advice as to whether the ADP should consider providing funding assistance towards visual smoke detectors for people who are deaf, deafened or hearing impaired. The Sensory Standing Committee membership is comprised of health care professionals and vendors who service Ontario residents with hearing, visual or communication impairments, and consumers. The Committee did not recommend visual smoke detectors for funding consideration because visual smoke detectors fall under home modifications and not personalized assistive devices.

The ADP has accepted the Committee's advice and will not fund the purchase and installation of visual smoke detectors.

Sincerely,

Brenda Kritzer
Director

- c: Durham Deaf Accessibility Committee – Mike Finnegan, Veronica Bickle, Gordon Ryall, Beverley Dooley, Kim Reid, Tony Flemming and Mirek Swieciki
Maggie Doherty-Gilbert, Regional Director, The Canadian Hearing Society, Peterborough, Durham and City of Kawartha Lakes Regions
Gary Malkowski, Special Advisor to the CEO, The Canadian Hearing Society
Jo-Ann Bentley, Provincial Co-ordinator, Communication Devices Program, The Canadian Hearing Society
Paul Smith, Executive Director, Ontario Association of the Deaf