

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016
SECOND FLOOR BOARDROOM
NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE**

In attendance:

Yvonne Peters (Chairperson). Jim Derksen, Lanny McInnes, Scott Jocelyn, Jim Baker, Judy Redmond, Jesse Turner, Dave Schellenberg, Doug Momotiuk, Ralph Groening

Regrets:

None

The council had a successful meeting with representatives of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities in September to work out issues of concern regarding council processes. There was agreement on several outstanding issues that will allow the council to work more effectively in the future. This is the first meeting of the council since April.

Yutta Fricke of the Disabilities Issues Office (DIO) was asked to present to council on DIO Initiatives and Activities related to the Act. This is an important year for the legislation with Government and a large number of public sector organizations responsible for developing accessibility plans. Universities and some other public sector organizations have been very successful in implementing plans, while other regions have some work to do.

Resource available to the DIO is limited and we are challenged to reach all the bodies that we need to. We have developed systems to assess the accessibility plans that we receive requesting feedback. Reaching the private sector when they are expected to be in compliance with the customer service standard is a considerable challenge. We expect to be working with the 2017 Canada Summer Games in providing volunteers with customer service training.

The DIO performed an environmental scan of enforcement measures in other government departments for the Minister. There are 10 departments that have regulatory regimes that we could conceivably work with. We don't have a complete compliance regime and this has to be addressed. It has been suggested that we second an individual from one of the other regulatory regimes to help us develop more comprehensive enforcement measures, but with the departments are reluctant to part with FTEs given the current fiscal climate at the government.

The Deputy Minister and the Financial Assistant Deputy Minister have been replaced, which is another challenge to addressing the lack of resources at the DIO.

A letter will be drafted by the council to be sent to the Minister calling for proper resourcing of the DIO in order to effectively carry out the implementation of the Act. The Council also identified the need for additional staff and resources to carry out the

activities and to provide the education all organizations need to comply with the accessibility standards.

AMM stated that they want to work with the Council and the DIO, but they again expressed municipalities need for additional resources from the provincial government in order to comply with the regulations.

One of the agreements made at the meeting with the AMM was the need to schedule dates of future meetings well in advance. We agreed to monthly dates through May, when the council will have completed most of its work in regard to the accessibility standard for employment and a committee for the development of information and communications will be functioning.

One final review of the proposed standard and the discussion paper is performed. The secretary will circulate a revised draft using track changes on Friday, October 14 for review. Council members will have until Friday, October 21 to provide suggested amendments. If responses are not received, it will be seen as approval of the discussion paper as circulated. Once the review of the Discussion Paper is complete, it be forwarded to the Human Rights Commission to review and ensure our understanding of reasonable accommodation is consistent with their interpretation.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15.