

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 21, 2018
SECOND FLOOR EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE**

Present: Jim Baker (Chairperson), Jim Derksen, Scott Jocelyn, Doris Koop, Dianna Scarth, Martin Harder, John Wyndels (DIO)

Absent: Jesse Turner, John Graham, Judy Redmond

The Chairperson met with the new Minister of Families and the Deputy Minister (DM) on Monday, September 17, 2018. This was seen as an opportunity to introduce himself, and by extension, the council, to the new Minister. The Minister and the DM once again confirmed their commitment to develop all five accessibility standards by the end of their first term in office. The Chairperson reiterated his concern regarding resources required to achieve the deliverables. Two policy analysts from Families have been seconded to assist the DIO. The DM would like to speak to the council regarding the compliance framework that has been developed and how he views compliance moving forward.

The Information and Communications Standard Development Committee's report, containing recommendations for a proposed Information and Communications (IC) standard, was distributed to council members. Council members read the document and provided initial responses.

Before a de-briefing of the document, the Secretary spoke to the government's commitment to complete all five standards in its first term in office. He has been developing a Gantt chart for the development of the remaining standards, working back from June 2020, when all five of the standards are to be completed. He stressed the importance of getting one of the three remaining standards to be developed (built environment, transportation, information and communications) and ready for public consultations by the end of June 2019.

There are a number of steps to achieve that. They are:

- Standard development committee submit a proposed standard
- Council review and/or amend to produce a discussion paper
- Publicly post the discussion paper for public comment by the end of April 2019

The secretary suggested that the best committee to be in a position to submit a proposed standard would be the built environment committee. The committee members are close to being all in place and the standard has well-established sections/components that would largely conform with best practices in the area.

From the Secretary's perspective, the recommendations of the Information and Communications Standard Development Committee are not easily achievable and would be seen as costly and burdensome to a large number of organizations with requirements under the proposed standard.

Council members said that we have an obligation to go through the IC report and we cannot walk away from it. The Chairperson and the Secretary said that we not walking away from the IC report and council would review it. At the same time, a Built Environment Standard Development Committee must be established and begin working on a proposed standard to bring to council. A letter will be prepared and forwarded to the committee thanking them for their service.

The Secretary agreed to go through the report and cull to its core elements. Several of the committee members find duplication and extraneous language. They also find that the language is confusing and not consistent with the customer service standard. One of the challenges will be to determine the overlaps that exist between the Customer Service and IC standards. The Chairperson and members of the committee will be invited to speak to the council and provide clarification when necessary.

The council reviewed the updated list of potential members to sit on the Built Environment Standard Development Committee. Two individuals from the disability community with knowledge of the subject agreed to participate. Two individuals from Health and the Winnipeg Regional Health authority were added as possible members. Their expertise in applying the social determinants of health to conceptualizing the design of effective rural and urban built environments would inform consideration and perspectives.

A number of people on the list were eliminated because their skill sets were already filled by other members of the committee. The council thinks a developer from the private sector would be a good fit. The Secretary agreed to speak to the Manitoba Homebuilders Association to see if he may be able to locate a potential candidate. The Secretary said that he would be pushing to get the committee up and running as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting of the council is scheduled for Friday, October 12. The Chairperson will be on holidays at that time and the Vice-chairperson will serve as Chairperson of the meeting.