**MANITOBA ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK**

**Whereas** Manitobans with disabilities face a multitude of barriers that limit their

 enjoyment of many basic life activities that others take for granted; and

**WHEREAS** on March 11, 2010, Manitoba applauded Canada’s decision to ratify the

 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and

**Whereas** on December 5, 2013, Manitoba passed The Accessibility for Manitobans

 Actwith the aim to prevent and remove barriers by working with the public

and private sectors on long-range plans to ensure accessibility; and

**Whereas** by November 2018, every Manitoba organization and business with at least

 one employee is called upon to take action to ensure accessible customer

 service; and

**WHEREAS** Manitoba’s accessibility standard on employment aims to remove and

 prevent barriers affecting current and potential members of Manitoba’s

 labour force; and

**Whereas** the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Human Rights Code

 (Manitoba) and The Accessibility for Manitobans Act reflect an abiding

 commitment to equitable access for persons with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**  the valuable social and economic contributions of people with disabilities to

 society should be acknowledged; and

**Whereas**  the public is often unaware of the barriers faced by Manitobans with

 disabilities, their effect and the measures that can be taken to reduce or

 remove the barriers.

**Now, therefore Let it be Known that I**, Heather Stefanson, Minister of Families, do hereby declare June 14 to 20, 2020, as:

***MANITOBA ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK***

in an effort to raise disability awareness across Manitoba.

 “Original signed by”

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 Honourable Heather Stefanson

 Minister of Families