**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017**

**SECOND FLOOR BOARDROOM**

**401 YORK AVENUE, NORQUAY BUILDING**

**In Attendance:**

Yvonne Peters, Jim Derksen, Jim Baker, Jesse Turner, Scott Jocelyn, Lanny McInnes, Judy Redmond, Doug Momotiuk, John Wyndels (DIO)

**Regrets:**

Ralph Groening, Brad Fulton

The term of council member, Dave Schellenberg, has expired. He will no longer be serving on the council. Brad Fulton from the Manitoba School Board Association has been approved through Order-in –Council.

The council met with Deputy Minister (DM), Jay Rodgers, on February 22, 2017. The Minister was unavailable. For many members, this was the first opportunity to meet with the new DM. Jay will be assuming the operational side of the legislation moving forward. He spoke about the compliance framework that is currently under development. He said that the council would have the opportunity to meet with him regarding the compliance framework once it has been developed. He recognizes that there is a need for more resources to carry out implementation and public awareness activities.

The Chairperson said that the report to the Minister containing recommendations on the proposed employment standard is expected to be completed by the end of March. The DM mentioned the number of programmatic initiatives of the government to better prepare persons with disabilities for employment and the opportunity for better coordination of the proposed standard and employment related programs in the future.

Following up on the February 14 meeting, a document was prepared identifying the suggested recommendations from submissions and public consultations requiring a decision. Ancillary information was provided for each area to be discussed. There were 8 areas requiring consensus. They were:

* Undue hardship
* Volunteers/Interns
* Accessibility policies
* Proactively Identify, remove and prevent barriers
* Recruitment, general
* Documented individual accommodation plans
* Return to work
* Training
* Collective bargaining units

The Secretary will prepare a draft of the Report and share with the Chairperson for review. Once agreement of language and content is achieved, the report will be shared with council members seeking feedback. Council members will have one week to review the document and provide suggested changes/amendments. It is hoped the document will be ready for distribution by Friday, February 24. Circumstances may force distribution until the following week.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2017. Selection for the Information and Communication Development Committee will be one of the major areas of discussion.