

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022
10:00 TO NOON
(ONLINE FORUM)

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Scott Jocelyn, Kelly Cook, Brad Robertson, Josh Watt, Dianna Scarth, Kris Cowley, Heidi Wurmman (Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Families), Emily Walker and Colleen Watters (Manitoba Accessibility Office)

Absent: Laurel Repski and Shawna Joynt

Summary:

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Council did not meet in March 2022, as there were no urgent agenda items. A ninth member representing the disability community has joined the Council.

The secretary is A/Executive Director of the Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) until April 25, 2022. Staffing at MAO was discussed.

The secretary gave an update on the enactment of the Information and Communication Standard, including MAO's plan for the launch. The MAO created standard overview and frequently asked questions documents to assist organizations understand their obligations. The secretary provided an update on standard development and other MAO updates, including website redevelopment.

Action: The secretary requested that all Council members who have not yet completed The accessible employment training do so by the end of May 2022. She will send a notice to the few members who have not yet completed training.

With respect to the Manitoba Accessibility Fund, the secretary reported that the application deadline is April 15, 2022. Once eligible applications have been reviewed by MAF staff, they will be forwarded to a three-person selection committee for evaluation. The selection committee will forward to the Minister responsible for Accessibility a list of projects recommended for funding. Once the Minister approves the list of funded projects, applicants will be notified and public announcements made.

The MAO will be holding a webinar on June 2, 2022, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm to celebrate Manitoba Access Awareness Week. The event is entitled "Accessible Information and Communication: Good for Everyone." It will feature an overview of the new standard and a feature presentation by Lisa Snider of Access Changes Everything. Lisa will provide tips on how to make websites accessible. The Manitoba Accessibility Awards were postponed until 2022/23.

Some Council terms expire in summer 2022. It is the chair's assumption that these individuals will wish to continue on Council.

Action: The chair will get in touch with individuals whose terms are expiring and ask if they wish to continue.

The Assistant Deputy Minister of Families provided a status update on the 22 recommendations from Council's Five-Year Review of the Accessible Customer Service Standard.

The 2022 schedule of Council meetings is as follows:

- June 8, 2022
- September 14, 2022
- October 13, 2022
- November 10, 2022
- December 8, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.