

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018
EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM, 2ND FLOOR, 401 YORK AVENUE**

PRESENT: Jim Baker (Chairperson), Jim Derksen, Dianna Scarth, Doris Koop. Judy Redmond, Jesse Turner, Scott Jocelyn John Wyndels (DIO), Patricia Knipe (DIO)

ABSENT: Ralph Groening, Brad Fulton

The Chairperson explained that a number of topics would be addressed including: the departure of Brad Fulton and Ralph Groening, the review of the final public input on the draft employment regulation, the need to set future meeting dates, and the participation Deputy Minister Jay Rogers in today's meeting.

He also addressed the forum held on January 24, 2018. This was a public input session by people with disabilities on the future Information and Communication Standard. The Secretary of the council offered a brief background as to the reasons for holding this forum and the comments heard.

Questions by members of council followed. There was some concern expressed regarding the review of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its affect on timelines for other work in progress. In addition, there was a request that the terms of reference for the Information and Communication Standard be shared with the Advisory Council.

Deputy Minister Jay Rogers answered questions from the Council. He discussed timelines for the remaining standards, a request from Barrier Free regarding for a sixth accessibility standard on education, and compliance. Deputy Minister Rogers spoke of his meeting with Deputy Ministers of all departments and a presentation to them made by DIO Executive Director. He also announced that caucus member constituency offices would all create an Accessibility Plan, although not required to do so.

Before departing, he addressed the four-year review of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act; announced the Federal Government has signalled its intent to have federal disability legislation; timelines for the impending Employment Standard; and appointing new council members. The Secretary shared a biography of a potential new member of council and the need for representatives from across the public and private sector, and rural representation.

Meetings dates were scheduled to address the final feedback of the Employment Standard. The discussion began with the language used in the draft legislation and a comparison to the Customer Service Standard language. A discussion followed on the lack of onus on the employee during the accommodation process and the Human Rights Commission policy and guidelines on the process and definition.

Discussion of the feedback from the second phase of public comment regarding the proposed employment standard would resume at the next meeting.