

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2018

SECOND FLOOR EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM

NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE

Present: Jim Baker (Chairperson), Jim Derksen, Scott Jocelyn, Doris Koop, Dianna Scarth, Jesse Turner, John Graham, John Wyndels (DIO)

Regrets: Martin Harder, Judy Redmond

1. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed council members and guests: Deputy Minister and AMA Director and his staff person. Council members introduced themselves.

2. COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK AND REMAINING AREAS OF STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

The Director of the AMA wishes to address Council as a follow-up to the November 2 presentation on a proposed compliance framework. He explained that as further accessibility standards are rolled out, the government will place increasing efforts on informing organizations of their obligations under the AMA, including who has to do what by when. He noted that the government could have done more to release web-based tools and resources on the Customer Service Standard (CSS) in advance of the compliance deadline for the private sector. The government tried to find a balance between promoting the CSS and explaining what organizations had to do to comply.

The Council was receptive to the focus on educating into compliance. Council believes that small businesses want to meet CSS obligations and require tools and resources to increase their understanding of the legislation and their responsibilities under the CSS.

The Council does not want to see headlines outlining negative experiences with compliance. It is important the government get the foundation of compliance correct. Under the AMA, organizations are not required to report whether they are performing their requirements under the CSS. Consideration may be given to implementing future reporting obligations, but this must be balanced with the need to minimize administrative costs to organizations. Once the Government of Manitoba Accessibility Steering Committee approves the framework, it will be released to the council.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS STANDARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Council discussed the differences between Functional Accessibility Requirements (FAR) and WCAG 2.0 Level AA, which is currently used as a measurement of web accessibility in Manitoba. Council must recommend to government the threshold of the size and organizational sectors which must comply with various requirements of the IC Standard.

4. APPROVAL OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE TRANSPORTATION STANDARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The council reviewed the updated list of potential members to sit on the Transportation Standard Development Committee.

Action: The Secretary will email a list of members to serve on the Transportation Standard Development Committee for Council approval.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Council is Friday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.