

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
ONLINE - ZOOM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, Meeting TIME: 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Dianna Scarth, Kris Cowley, Shawna Joynt, Scott Jocelyn, Josh Watt, Laurel Repski, Ray Schirle (Guest and Future Association of Manitoba Municipalities Representative to Council-replacing Kelly Cook), Colleen Watters and Maria Ferraro (MAO), Two ASL Interpreters (ECCOE)

Regrets: Darren Macdonald and Charissa McIntosh (MAO).

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the land acknowledgement. Council members introduced themselves and provided background information about their expertise.

In relation to the Manitoba Accessibility Fund, the secretary highlighted a powerpoint provided by the program manager who was unable to attend the meeting.

Council asked about the selection committee and were advised that the committee is composed of public servants, the majority of whom have lived experience with disability. Members also asked about the MAF selection criteria, the committee terms of reference, background information on the 2023-24 grant recipients and summaries of achievements from 2022-23 projects.

Action: Following the meeting, The secretary distributed the powerpoint presentation, the MAF 2023-24 backgrounder, a list of selection committee members, the MAF guidelines (including selection criteria) and the committee terms of reference to the Council.

The above information with the exception of the list of selection committee members is posted on <http://www.accessibilityMB.ca>. MAF projects from 2022-23 are profiled in current and past issues of Accessibility News, and a review of the 2022-23 pilot year is also being conducted. Council suggested the MAO publicize MAF and success stories in community newspapers and that stories about the Manitoba Accessibility Fund be provided in American Sign Language.

The chair offered Council updates. With respect to re-appointments, three members whose terms expired in July 2023 were re-appointed by the Agencies, Boards and Commissions Office. The remaining two appointments will take place following the election caretaking period.

By way of standard updates, the Council presented recommendations on an Accessible Transportation Standard to the Minister in June 2023, and Minister approval was obtained. The legislative drafters are developing the final draft standard which must be approved by Cabinet prior to enactment. The secretary clarified that the consultations held from February to April 2023 were the

Last consultations planned on this standard prior to enactment. Legislative drafters are working on a draft standard for the Design of Outdoor Public Spaces (DOPS) and had questions about this. The Standard Development Committee was re-constituted to respond to these questions. Council asked for information on accessibility from the Manitoba Building Code and the differences between the 2015 and 2020 versions of the Code. MAO does not oversee the Building Code which is under the jurisdiction of Inspection and Technical services. The Building Code is very technical and requires the assistance of designers to interpret. Accessibility Standards Canada's review of their Design of Public Outdoor Spaces Standard has just been completed, and it will inform discussions about DOPS.

Action: The secretary will find out if Accessibility Standards Canada has a handbook or interpretation guide for their standard and will send this to Council. The secretary has a copy of the new Canadian Standards Association (CSA) on the environment and will also include it. Response: They do not have one at this time.

The review of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act was completed in June 2023 and was shared with the Minister. The review report and an implementation plan (currently being developed) will be presented to the Minister responsible for Accessibility when a new government is in place.

The Accessible Employment Standard was enacted in May 2019 and is up for review in May 2024. The Council held preliminary discussions on a process to be utilized to conduct the review.

Accessibility Standards Canada asked to meet with the Council and preliminary meeting arrangements were discussed. The Council then considered key messages to provide to the Minister responsible for Accessibility post-election.

Action: Following discussion, it was agreed that the chair will write a letter to the future Minister introducing the Council and its work and requesting a meeting.

Next meetings will take place on October 26 and November 30, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 pm.