

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024, 9:00 AM
IN-PERSON, BOARDROOM 1E, 114 GARRY STREET

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Josh Watt, Shawna Joynt, Scott Jocelyn, Dianna Scarth, Ray Schirle, Vivi Dabee, Darren Macdonald, Emily Walker, and Colleen Watters (Manitoba Accessibility Office), Lucia Madariaga-Vignudo, Monika Bonsor and Dawn Steliga (Accessibility Compliance Secretariat), Two ASL Interpreters (ECCOE)

Regrets: Kris Cowley, Laurel Repski

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting made a land acknowledgement. He noted this would be the last in-person meeting prior to the summer break. The first two hours of the Council meeting were devoted to a focus group led by staff of the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat (ACS) seeking Council feedback on the establishment of a mechanism on monetary penalties for non-compliance under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

The chair noted that, when her term on Council ends in August 2024, Dianna Scarth has chosen not to stand for re-appointment. The chair thanked Dianna for her excellent contribution to the work of Council and indicated her voice would be missed at the table.

Following the focus group, Council received updates from the chair and the Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) and discussed the Accessible Employment Standard Five-Year Review (the launch was delayed due to the by-election in Tuxedo). Consultations will begin in June and continue until November 1, 2024.

The chair reported that he and the vice chair will be attending a meeting of the Intellectual Disability Issues Advisory Council on June 17. Plain language information describing the AAC, as well as questions to be addressed were prepared. The chair and vice chair will find out more about the IDIA Council's mandate, current initiatives and challenges and ways in which the AAC and the IDIA Councils might collaborate.

By way of MAO updates, in early May the Executive Director attended a Pan-Canadian Forum with participants from all provinces. Recommendations on the Manitoba Accessibility Fund projects to be supported in 2024-25 went up to the Minister for consideration the second week in June. To celebrate Manitoba Access Awareness Week in late May and early June, the MAO held a series of four webinars on the Accessible Information and Communication Standard to celebrate Manitoba Access Awareness Week, and these were very successful.

The next meeting will be virtual on September 12.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.