

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024, 9:30 AM TO NOON
VIRTUAL, VIA ZOOM**

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Josh Watt, Shawna Joynt, Scott Jocelyn, Ray Schirle, Vivi Dabee, Laurel Repski, Kris Cowley, Two ASL Interpreters (ECCOE), Dino Zuppa, Brian Prairie, Mahadeo Sukhai, and Sarah van Baarsen (Accessibility Standards Canada), Darren Macdonald, Emily Walker, and Colleen Watters (Manitoba Accessibility Office).

Regrets: None.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting (including representatives from Accessibility Standards Canada) (ASC) and made a land acknowledgement. Council members introduced themselves. The chair mentioned the Accessible Employment Standard review in Manitoba which is currently underway.

The meeting began with a presentation and discussion with Accessibility Standards Canada focussing on a draft of the federal Accessible Employment Standard. Council then discussed preliminary summaries of the consultation feedback from the review of Manitoba's Accessible Employment Standard which is still ongoing.

Action: Prior to the November 14, 2024, Council meeting, the chair and secretary will assemble the information from the focus groups, town halls, the forum, the EngageMB survey and individual feedback for Council to consider. The next meeting will be devoted entirely to discussion of the review findings.

Action: The secretary will send to two Council members a word version of the EngageMB survey to circulate to their contacts.

By way of Manitoba Accessibility Office updates, the Executive Director noted that work is continuing on drafting the Accessible Outdoor Spaces Standard, with consultations expected in the future.

- In November, there will be an event where the Minister will announce the 2024-25 recipients of the Manitoba Accessibility Fund and present an accessibility award to a worthy project from 2023-24.
- Over the next three months, events are also being held to celebrate Disability Employment Awareness Month, Indigenous Disability Awareness Month and International Day of Persons with Disabilities. On October 17, 2024, the Legislative Building will be lit up in honour of Disability Employment Awareness Month.

- The Compliance Secretariat is continuing work on the penalties scheme, and consultations will begin in the near future.
- There is no update on a replacement Council member to take over from a representative who left in summer 2024 at the end of her term.

The meeting concluded with a round table discussion among Council members.

The next meeting is planned for November 14, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.