

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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, Two ASL Interpreters (ECCOE), Karen Sharma and Megan Fultz (Manitoba Human Rights Commission), Charissa McIntosh and Aileen White (Public Service Commission), Darren Macdonald, Emily Walker, and Colleen Watters (Manitoba Accessibility Office).

Regrets: Kris Cowley.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgement. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Accessible Employment Standard review, including activities to date, a presentation from the Manitoba Human Rights Commission and a discussion with the Public Service Commission (Manitoba government) on elements to be included in the 2025-26 Manitoba Accessibility Plan.

The Accessible Employment Standard review consultation was launched in the summer of 2024. The EngageMB site went live, and targeted focus groups were held with community stakeholders. Two virtual town halls and an in-person forum with the disability community will take place in late September and early October.

Representatives from the Manitoba Human Rights Commission presented a PowerPoint on their work, a breakdown of the number and types of human rights complaints received, the disability discrimination situations they encounter and their perspectives on the Accessible Employment Standard.

Action: The secretary agreed to forward Council questions to the Commission for a response.

The chair reported that he and the vice chair attended a meeting of the Intellectual Disability Issues Advisory Council on June 17.

Representatives from the Public Service Commission then led Council in a discussion on the barriers and gaps experienced by people with disabilities seeking service from government, solutions to these barriers, Council's perspectives on what the government's focus should be related to accessibility over the next two years. The Public Service Commission will prepare a What We Heard report in October and a draft accessibility plan. The plan will be refined and posted online in December 2024.

The next meeting will take place on October 17, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.