



## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

### **MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025, 9:00 AM – NOON**

**In-person: Boardroom 1E – 114 Garry Street, Winnipeg**

**HYBRID, VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** John Graham (Chairperson), Scott Jocelyn, Vivi Dabee, Laurel Repski, Ray Schirle, Kris Cowley, Shawna Joynt, Two ASL Interpreters (ECCOE), Sarah Lugtig Riezebos (Guest), Emily Walker and Colleen Watters (Manitoba Accessibility Office)

**Regrets:** Josh Watt

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgement. He then provided an overview of the topics to be discussed in the meeting. The secretary presented a PowerPoint on Council's next project, due to the Minister in June 2026.

Council discussed their draft letter to the Minister of Families and Minister responsible for Accessibility outlining their recommendations on proposed changes to the 2030 National Building Code.

In the area of procurement, Council members noted the worthwhile and positive procurement discussion at the September meeting. The secretary mentioned the first government procurement conference, and that accessibility was mentioned in some of the remarks. The secretary will explore opportunities to collaborate for future events.

By way of Minister/Deaf community relations, a Council member reported on the successful flag-raising ceremony with the Deaf community which took place on September 23, 2025, with nine presenters. Council was represented at the event.

On the topic of updates, the secretary reported that the Manitoba Accessibility Office is currently hiring for a Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) Manager and that the intake for the MAF program will begin in January 2026. She also mentioned the latest technical briefing with Accessibility Standards Canada (ASC) on accessible housing.

To celebrate Disability Employment Awareness Month, the MAO will be hosting a webinar on October 28, 2025, entitled: "Accessibility at Work: Removing Barriers to Benefit All Employees". Webinars will also take place in recognition of Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (October 25) and International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3). On October 30, the Department of Families will meet with

representatives from the Deaf community to provide an overview of the forthcoming Sign Languages Recognition Act.

The next three Council meetings will take place on November 16 and December 11, 2025. Additional meetings for 2026 will be established in December 2025.

The meeting adjourned at noon.