

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

**MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025, 9:00 AM – NOON**

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

**HYBRID, VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** John Graham (Chairperson), Josh Watt, Scott Jocelyn, Vivi Dabee, Laurel Repski, Ray Schirle, Kris Cowley, Shawna Joynt, Two ASL Interpreters (ECCOE), Sarah Lugtig Riezebos, Council Guest, Paris Fragkoulis (Assistant Deputy Minister, Rahma Aslam and Kendra Remillard from the Procurement Centre of Excellence, Procurement and Supply Chain, Public Service Delivery (Manitoba government), Darren Macdonald, Emily Walker and Colleen Watters (Manitoba Accessibility Office)

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgement. The chair also welcomed Sarah Lugtig Riezebos, a guest and Council members introduced themselves.

A Council member provided an update including, on September 23, 2025, at 12:50 p.m., there will be a Deaf flag-raising ceremony at the Manitoba Legislative Building to celebrate International Deaf Awareness Week, and Council members were encouraged to attend if possible. Flags will be available for purchase. This ceremony will be part of a larger event from noon to 3:00 p.m. which will also include Deaf cultural awareness training. Regular updates on Minister relations with the Deaf community will be a standing agenda item at future meetings.

Council participated in a discussion on government procurement with a team from the Procurement Centre of Excellence, Procurement and Supply Chain within Public Service Delivery, following which a separate Council discussion took place.

**Action:** The chair and secretary will summarize the discussions on procurement, circulate to Council members for approval and then forward to the procurement team.

By way of Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) updates, the secretary highlighted proposed changes to the Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) to be put forward in winter 2025 and that the government is working on a Sign Languages Recognition Act. She also noted that the 2023 AMA Review Action Tracker was posted on AccessibilityMB.ca. The MAO will be hosting a webinar on the Accessible Customer Service Standard on September 23, 2025, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Council members were

invited to register. There will be future monthly webinars as well, for example Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM), planned for the year.

At the request of the Minister, the Council discussed their next project to be a priority over the next few months, and a preliminary discussion took place, and members also considered potential changes to the 2030 National Building Code.

Future Meetings:

- October 16, 2025 – 9:30 to Noon
- November 13, 2025
- December 11, 2025

The meeting adjourned at noon.