



**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION
MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025, 10:00 AM – NOON
VIRTUAL (VIA ZOOM)**

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

Regrets: None

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the land acknowledgement. Updates were provided on the accessibility planning project, procurement, the Compliance Framework and Penalties Consultation through EngageMB, and the vacancy on the Council. Discussions occurred about the National Building Code process and Council's recent work on increasing accessibility in the built environment.

Action: The Association of Manitoba Municipalities representative will facilitate a meeting between his association and MAO/ACS to clarify the penalties regulation and AMA requirements.

A Council member provided an update on Minister/Deaf community relations. On December 3, 2025, the government introduced the Sign Language Recognition Act, which was a positive experience. A Council member who is Deaf had a follow-up interview about this.

The member raised current issues, like the shortage of sign language interpreters in Manitoba, with working conditions and wages needing to be improved. Further meetings with the Deaf community are being planned to address these issues, and others.

Council will continue to emphasize the importance of the current ASL interpreter program. A Council member noted the absence of diversity in the program and hopes further discussion with the Minister can take place.

Action: Council will include this item on the agenda of the annual Minister meeting.

The intake for 2026 applications to the Manitoba Accessibility Fund will open on January 12, 2026, and close on February 20, 2026. An English webinar to assist applicants in

completing their applications will take place on January 5, 2026, at 1 PM and a French webinar will be held at the same time on January 6.

Council engaged in a round table discussion and identified the vision and priorities for 2026.

Action: Based on this discussion, the chair and secretary will develop a calendar of priority issues and when they will be discussed.

Council considered proposed meeting dates for 2026.

Action: Council will consider the suggested meeting dates and get back to the secretary with any feedback.

The month of January will be devoted to moving forward on the accessibility planning project. The Minister meeting will take place in February 2026.

The chair thanked the Council for their hard work over the past year.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.