



**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION
MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026, 9:30 AM – NOON
VIRTUAL (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 chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the land acknowledgement. Topics on the agenda were reviewed including the built environment, accessibility planning project, procurement update, Minister/Deaf community relations, Council objectives for 2026-27, roundtable discussion and meeting dates for the remaining months of the calendar year.

A significant portion of the meeting focused on accessibility and the built environment. The Council expressed interest in strengthening Manitoba's participation in national code development, increasing representation of people with lived experience, and advancing practical tools such as accessibility checklists and design guides. The potential to encourage accessibility-ready housing through grants and policy levers was also discussed.

Action: On behalf of the Council, the chair will contact the local representative on the national technical accessibility committee to connect and provide input.

Council received a detailed update on the Accessibility Planning Project, including key findings from a cross-Canada jurisdictional scan and a Manitoba focus group. The discussion touched on strengths and weaknesses of the current process.

Updates were also provided on procurement, noting progress at the Procurement Centre of Excellence, including completed milestones and the launch of accessibility training. Council noted the importance of embedding accessibility requirements into procurement processes.

The Council discussed Minister and Deaf community relations, including concerns raised. The importance of ongoing engagement and trust-building was emphasized.

Finally, Council reviewed and confirmed its key objectives for 2026–27 and future meeting dates. The meeting ended with a roundtable of member updates.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19 in the morning and potentially in-person with the Minister.

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.