AAC Accessibility Advisory Council

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION
MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026, 10 AM – NOON
VIRTUAL (VIA ZOOM)

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

Regrets: Kris Cowley

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgement. The meeting focussed on the upcoming Accessible Customer Service Standard review to be conducted in the summer and fall of 2026, a project on accessibility planning to be submitted to the Minister in June and a number of standing items.

The Manitoba Accessibility Office conducted a public survey on the upcoming Accessible Outdoor Spaces Standard in March and April, and a report on the results is being prepared. Applications for the 2026-27 Manitoba Accessibility Fund were vetted by an internal selection committee of public servants and forwarded to the Minister for her decision. In celebration of Manitoba Access Awareness Week, the Manitoba Accessibility Office will present a webinar on artificial intelligence and the opportunities and risks of AI on June 4, 2026.

In the area of Minister/Deaf community relations, A Council member noted that the Manitoba Deaf Awareness Team prepared a report about the interpreter program at Red River Poly Tech as well as Bill 6, the Sign Languages Recognition Act. The report was distributed to Council.

Next Meetings:

- June 11, 9:30 am – 12 pm (in person, potentially with Minister)
- September 17, 10 am – 12 pm
- October 15, 10 am – 12 pm
- November 5, 10 am – 12 pm
- December 10, 10 am – 12 pm

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.