

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES
STANDARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019
SECOND FLOOR EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE**

Present: Glen Manning (Chairperson), Kris Cowley, Colin Mathison, Colin Marnoch, Judy Redmond, Brian Everton, Rebecca Lauhn-Jensen, John Wyndels (Secretary)

Absent: Bob Somers, Lisa Richards

Lisa Richards, Medical Officer for WRHA and representative on the committee, has stepped away from the process. She feels the value that public health can bring would be largely in the review of the draft document. The Secretary spoke to her, and in consultation with the Chairperson, accepted her resignation. She will be apprised of the process as it moves forward.

Members of the committee continue to be concerned regarding the scope of the proposed standard. The Building Standard Board has been eliminated and the OFC has told the committee there is no timeline for adopting NBC 2015. Committee members want the Design of Public Spaces Accessibility Standard to be the first step in a larger process of adopting upgrades to accessibility features within the Manitoba Building Code. They are frustrated by the problem and suggest it will be a public relations problem for the government if not properly addressed.

There are a number of suggested methods that could be undertaken by the government to move the process forward:

- (1) Buildings, structures and premises be the second phase of a larger process of improving accessibility in the built environment.
- (2) The Manitoba Building Code undertake a through accessibility review.
- (3) The Terms of Reference for the proposed DOPS Standard be re-written to undertake a broader scope of what the built environment standard is.
- (4) The Government state a larger commitment to address accessibility features in the built environment with a set process and timeline.

The Secretary, in consultation with the Chairperson, will prepare a letter to the Deputy Minister asking for a meeting with select committee members who will attend to discuss specific solutions.

An indexed data spreadsheet has been developed listing elements of public spaces the committee feels should be in a proposed standard. Each committee member has been assigned a source material with requirements applied to the various elements we are seeking data. The inputted data is transferred the spreadsheet to assess recommended

values and identify any outliers. Committee members speak to their source materials; strengths, shortcoming, and the approach each has taken to deliver the information. This will be the instrument to determine recommended values for the proposed standard.

Adding a description of scope, intent and application, and separating urban/rural regulations will make it a useable document that people understand from the outset. It is important that people know whom the standard applies to and how it applies to them. Municipalities are a strong voice in the province and we must try to make the standard appropriate for them.

The next meeting of the DOPS Standard Development Committee is Thursday, January 31 at 1:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Executive Boardroom of the Norquay Building, 401 York Avenue. The next two meeting dates of the DOPS Standard Development Committee are Wednesday, February 20 and Wednesday, March 6 at the same time and location.