

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS
OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
STANDARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2018
SECOND FLOOR EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM
NORQUAY BUILDING, 401 YORK AVENUE**

Present: Glen Manning, Brian Everton, Judy Redmond, Bob Somers, Colin Mathison, Colin Marnoch, Kris Cowley, Lisa Richards, Rebecca Luhn-Jensen, John Wyndels (Secretary - DIO)

Absent: None

This is the first meeting of the Built Environment Standard Development Committee. Glen Manning agreed to serve as the Chairperson of the committee. Judy Redmond offered to serve as Vice Chairperson. The Secretary reminded committee members that the government is committed to developing all five standards under the AMA in their first term in office. To achieve that timetable, the Built Environment proposed standard must follow an ambitious timeframe and one that the committee is willing to work toward achieving. The Customer Service Standard has come into force. The Employment Standard is expected to come into force early in the new calendar year.

The built environment standard will focus exclusively on areas outside The Manitoba Building Code (the Code). The standard will regulate outdoor space, such as pedestrian crossings and trails, beach access routes and public eating areas. The Term of Reference provided to committee members have not been approved by the Minister and are subject to change.

Several members said that the design of public spaces, which is the mandated area of standard development within the Terms of Reference, is not an area of standard development identified in The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA). The Act clearly states the built environment, including facilities, building structures and premises as an area of standard development.

The Secretary said the Disabilities Issues Office (DIO) had spoken with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), which oversees the Code, and had been told the built environment standard was not to tread on any areas currently regulated by the Code. The Minister of Families, who is responsible for the AMA, is aware of the discrepancies between the Act and the Terms of Reference.

The Manitoba Building Standards Board has been disbanded and the Manitoba Government has not adopted, with or without amendments, the current 2015 National Building Code of Canada (model code). There are discussions between the Federal and Provincial counterparts to conduct a makeover of responsibilities with regard to Building Codes. Until clear directives are spelled out, the OFC is in a holding pattern.

This is very frustrating for a number of members of the committee who are concerned with the minimum regulatory requirements regarding accessibility features within the

Building Code. They are disappointed our committee will not discuss those features and with the slow progress towards resolving Building Code issues.

It was agreed that each standard developed by the committee should include a clear preamble that lists intents, and that there is a process to accept alternate solutions should the listed requirements prove to be unfeasible or inappropriate in a specific application.

The committee will use Ontario's *Design of Public Spaces Standard* as a starting point for discussions. These were created as part of the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act**. The *Standard* and the *Guide to the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation* were distributed to committee members prior to the first meeting. The *Guide* is a useful document for understanding the intent and rationale for various provisions within the standard.

A number of other publications to assist our discussions were mentioned. CSA B651 is Accessible Design for the Built Environment (2015). This document has copyright restrictions, and the most recent version (2018) has not been made public yet.

It was agreed the standard will be named the "Design of Public Spaces Standard" when it comes into force. The Secretary assured the committee that despite the AMA calling for a standard to facilities, building, structures and premises, the Minister has the authority to designate the Design of Public Spaces as the Built Environment Standard.

All members assigned to serve on the committee are eligible to remuneration. A package of materials was given to committee members to authorize the payments. The Secretary requires a copy of their Social Insurance Number and a void blank cheque.

Meeting dates were established for the next three months. The dates are:

- Wednesday, November 14, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 28, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 12, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 3, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 17, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, January 31, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.