

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**  
**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022**  
**10:00 TO 12 NOON**  
**(ONLINE FORUM)**

**Present:** John Graham (Chairperson), Scott Jocelyn, Kelly Cook, Laurel Repski, Brad Robertson, Josh Watt, Dianna Scarth, Kris Cowley, Philip Rizcallah and Maggie Saunders (Accessibility Standards Canada), Emily Walker, Yutta Fricke and Colleen Watters (MAO)

**Absent:** Nil

**Summary:**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Council did not meet in January 2022, as there were no urgent agenda items. The chair noted some of the exciting initiatives in Manitoba to advance accessibility, including the launch of the Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF). He then introduced Philip Rizcallah and Maggie Saunders from Accessibility Standards Canada who provided a presentation about accessibility standards regulated under the Accessible Canada Act and research and accessibility initiatives being undertaken by their organization. This was followed by questions and discussion. Council members were invited to submit suggested research topics to Accessibility Standards Canada. The MAO and Accessibility Standards Canada have regular monthly meetings, and Council members are welcome to forward questions for discussion.

Yutta Fricke, Executive Director of the Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO), provided an update on the Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF). She reviewed the MAF guidelines and noted the MAO will be launching MAF on February 14, 2022, to avoid an election communications blackout period. An application preview will be posted to [AccessibilityMB.ca](https://www.accessibilitymb.ca) on Monday. The preview will provide an overview of MAF and the steps to complete an application form. The actual application, frequently asked questions, glossary of terms and reporting and application guidelines will be posted on March 1<sup>st</sup> when the application period begins. The deadline for completed applications is April 15, 2022. The MAO will host a webinar on March 9<sup>th</sup> to provide guidance to organizations and take questions. Since Yutta will be retiring on March 31, 2022, she thanked Council for their support.

The secretary then provided an update on standard development and noted she is a member of the team charged with implementing Council's recommendations from the

Customer Service Standard Review, and work is progressing well. The secretary also provided information on a potential new Council member.

**Action:** The MAO will ensure the March 9<sup>th</sup> MAF webinar training video is sent to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and individual municipalities.

The 2022 schedule of Council meetings is as follows:

- April 14
- May 11
- June 8
- September 14
- October 13
- November 10
- December 8

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.