



Figure 1: Accessibility Advisory Council Logo

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL and Barrier-Free Manitoba

ONLINE - ZOOM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Meeting with Barrier Free Manitoba Members TIME: 10-11am

AAC MEETING TIME: 11:00 AM -12:00 PM

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Brad Robertson, Kelly Cook, Josh Watt, Dianna Scarth, Kris Cowley, Laurel Repski, Shawna Joynt, Scott Jocelyn, Darren Macdonald and Maria Ferraro (MAO), Lucia Madariaga-Vignudo (ACS), Sarah Lugtig (AMA Reviewer), 2 ASL Interpreters (ECCOE)

Council first met with Barrier-Free Manitoba. Following this, the Council meeting took place. The meeting began with a discussion with Sarah Lugtig (Minister-appointed AMA reviewer) including consideration of how the Accessibility Council can support the five-year review of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act. A focus group with the Council will be scheduled for March 2023.

The meeting continued with an overview by the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat on the ways AMA-related complaints have been handled to date, including how the office engages with citizens in an attempt to resolve these complaints. If concerns fall within the purview of the AMA and the standards in force, the office may reach out directly to organizations and/or provide information to citizens about the specifics of the legislation (e.g., feedback mechanism). The Secretariat met with the accessibility office in Ontario which advised they do not provide mediation or advocacy services.

By way of standard updates, checklists, a handbook and training module for the Accessible Information and Communication Standard are currently being developed. The 60-day consultation period for the Accessible Transportation Standard runs from February 9 to April 9, 2023. A consultation webinar will take place on March 22, 2023

from 1:30-3:30 pm. Following this, Council will discuss recommendations and feedback from the webinar.

The Design of Public Outdoor Spaces Standard will be enacted in 2024 instead of 2023 to enable additional consultation with the community. A Five-Year Review of the Accessible Employment Standard will take place in 2024.

Council received an update related to the Manitoba Accessibility Office's work with Accessibility Standards Canada on standard development, a pan-Canadian forum on Accessibility Standards and the draft Memorandum of Understanding between Manitoba and Accessibility Standards Canada. Accessibility Standards Canada is involved in 60 research projects, and has a total budget of \$8 million. Projects include:

- Elections,
- Environment,
- Engagement Activities,
- Accessible Tourism,
- Transportation (Air & Rail),
- Acoustics in the DOPS.

Council also received an update on the Two-Year Ministerial Plan on Accessibility, 2024-25.

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Council will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2023 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.