

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024, 9:00 AM

In-Person at 114 Garry, Boardroom 1D

Present: John Graham (Chairperson), Dianna Scarth, Kris Cowley, Shawna Joynt, Scott Jocelyn, Josh Watt (on Zoom), Laurel Repski (on Zoom), Ray Schirle (Future Association of Manitoba Municipalities Representative to Council - replacing Kelly Cook), Emily Walker and Colleen Watters (MAO), Two ASL Interpreters (ECCOE)

Regrets: None

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the land acknowledgement. The meeting focussed on chair updates and round table discussion.

The chair raised follow-up points from the Minister meeting. Discussion then turned to the upcoming Accessible Employment Standard Review and potential questions on accessibility to be included in a spring survey being conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

Action: The chair and secretary will draft possible CFIB survey questions and circulate to Council members for feedback.

For Manitoba Accessibility Office updates, the secretary provided information on the 2024 intake for the Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF). The intake began on January 8, and closed on February 16, 2024. Applicants were asked if they wanted us to keep their applications on file for next year, with the majority responding in the affirmative. Organizations receiving \$100,000 or two consecutive MAF grants were asked to pause for one year before re-applying. Applications are now with the selection committee for review.

The secretary provided an update to Council on accessible procurement.

The secretary reported that the Accessible Information and Communication Standard training module will be ready and up on the website by the end of March. Organizations will have the ability to download the module for integration into their learning management systems.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to Council discussion of the recommendations from the AMA Five-Year Review and determining the top ten Council priorities.

Decision: Council will discuss the process of determining the top recommendations for priority action at the April meeting.

Next Meetings:

- April 11
- May 9
- June 13

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.