

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**  
**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON**  
**(ONLINE FORUM)**

**Present:** John Graham (Chairperson), Scott Jocelyn, Kelly Cook, Josh Watt, Kris Cowley, Dianna Scarth, Brad Robertson, Laurel Repski, John Wyndels, Emily Walker and Colleen Watters (Manitoba Accessibility Office)

**Absent:** None

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized the contributions of John Wyndels (who recently retired from the MAO) to provincial accessibility initiatives, to the Manitoba government and the Council. John thanked the Council for the recognition and noted its involvement in long-standing legislation that will have an impact for years to come.

By way of updates, the Secretary reported that the MAO held a very successful webinar on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate Manitoba Access Awareness Week, with 274 people attending. The topic was Accommodating People with Disabilities in the Workplace: Beyond COVID-19. The keynote address by Yazmine Laroche, Deputy Minister of Public Service Accessibility with the Government of Canada and a panel of persons with disabilities were highlights. She further reported that the Minister's Annual Plan 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 launched on May 30<sup>th</sup>, and the MAO unveiled a new training module on the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both are posted on [AccessibilityMB.ca](https://www.accessibilitymb.ca).

With respect to the five-year review of the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service, seven focus groups and two webinars have been completed. An eighth focus group with the Francophone community will take place shortly. The Secretary summarized the initial findings from focus groups, webinars and the EngageMB survey, and Council members offered their perspectives.

**Action:** The Secretary will identify, categorize and analyse themes that emerged from the survey. Council will discuss recommendations and outline the Minister's report at the next meeting.

The next Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.