



The Disabilities Issues Office

PUTTING FULL CITIZENSHIP INTO PRACTICE

Disabilities
ISSUES
OFFICE

Manitoba 

Participation and Inclusion

“When persons with disabilities reach their greatest potential, we are strengthening the entire Manitoba community, drawing on the abilities of all our citizens.”

— GARY DOER, PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Manitobans with disabilities have told the government they wish to contribute to and benefit from the social and economic life of the province. The government has responded with a commitment to designing programs and infrastructure to be more usable for all our citizens — also known as universal design.

In 2001, the Government of Manitoba adopted *Full Citizenship: A Manitoba Provincial Strategy on Disability* outlining a vision for full participation of persons with disabilities as equal citizens in our society.



Full Citizenship — An Inspiring Vision, an Obtainable Goal

The Government of Manitoba works with persons with disabilities to improve their quality of life.

This means helping Manitobans with disabilities:

- obtain the education and training of their choice
- find meaningful employment
- gain full access to government services
- live independently with adequate housing and disability supports.

By introducing innovative practices and accommodating individual needs, the province encourages active participation of persons with disabilities.

Leadership

The Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities is mandated to:

- identify issues affecting persons with disabilities
- co-ordinate policy development to improve access to public services
- promote positive attitudes and raise awareness about disability
- represent the needs of Manitobans with disabilities to other levels of government

In 2002, the Government of Manitoba established the Disabilities Issues Office (DIO) to serve and report to the Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities.



The Disabilities Issues Office:

- communicates directly with members of the community
- organizes an annual round table forum to consult with organizations and citizens concerned about new policy directions
- co-ordinates work among government departments, disability groups, corporate and community organizations
- makes Manitoba a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities

“Regular consultation with the public is paramount as we continue to address the changes necessary to embrace Manitobans with disabilities as full participants in our society.”

— TIM SALE, THE FIRST APPOINTED MINISTER
RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Moving Change Forward

“The Manitoba Government is committed to working with the community of people with disabilities as we identify issues and develop solutions to achieve an inclusive society.”

—GORD MACKINTOSH, MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Disabilities Issues Office is playing a key role in many initiatives, including:

- establishing policy requiring renovations or construction of government buildings to meet universal design guidelines
- improving employment and educational opportunities for persons with disabilities, allowing them to receive training and earn additional income without losing services they may still require
- starting discussions with federal and First Nations governments to achieve more fairness in disability services delivery
- ensuring that government services and information are accessible to all citizens.



How to Reach Us

For information about our annual round table consultations, please contact :

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