
Background Information

The province's Accessibility Advisory Council has made 22 recommendations, including:

1. conducting a review of all departments to ensure the Manitoba government consistently meets or exceeds standard requirements, and acts as a leader and champion for accessibility legislation;
2. reviewing the role of department accessibility coordinators as an important strategy for revitalizing accessibility awareness and communication commitments within departments;
3. ensuring communications and services are consistently accessible to all members of the public;
4. expanding the provision of materials and information for the public in American Sign Language (ASL);
5. integrating accessibility during initial stages of project and program development, especially in procurement processes;
6. enhancing transparency of government compliance and improve collaboration with the Accessibility Advisory Council;
7. providing adequate resources to the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat;
8. ensuring compliance activities are more transparent through annual reporting;
9. measuring and reporting publicly on the impact that the standard is having on improving accessibility;
10. establishing Accessibility Compliance Secretariat protocols to report and resolve accessibility standard complaints;
11. reevaluating returning to the lower threshold of 20 employees or more that must document policies and make these available to the public;
12. substantially improving outreach and awareness to obligated businesses and organizations;
13. improving education, outreach and awareness in communities outside of Winnipeg;
14. ensuring the Manitoba Accessibility Office meets its French language commitments;
15. changing the name of the regulation to Accessible Customer Service Standard Regulation, in line with other accessibility standards;
16. ensuring organizations have access to resources and funding support to implement this standard;
17. enhancing the profile and content of AccessibilityMB.ca to make it easier to access tools and resources;
18. modernizing Manitoba Accessibility Office resources and awareness raising campaigns to keep them relevant and useful;
19. ensuring Manitoba's commitment to accessibility is adequately administered;
20. continuing to monitor financial implications of recommendations on stakeholders;

21. appointing an additional member to the Accessibility Advisory Council to increase the diversity of viewpoints; and
22. asking all members of agencies, boards and commissions to identify disability status during the appointment process.