

**MANITOBA ACCESSIBILITY FUND 2025-26 RECIPIENTS****Asian Women of Winnipeg - \$42,900**

This project aims to enhance the accessibility of community events across Manitoba by providing training programs, focusing on improved accessible customer service and enhanced cultural sensitivity for hospitality staff and event organizers. Comprehensive toolkits and multi-format resources will be developed to guide accessible event planning, as well as collaborating with disability organizations to pilot the tools and gather feedback. The project will increase public awareness of accessibility, improve compliance with standards and enhance experiences for individuals with disabilities at cultural events. Funding: \$42,900

**Beautiful Plains School Division - \$8,400**

This project will improve the accessibility of the school division's website, ensuring equal access to information and services for people with disabilities. It will enhance user experience for all visitors and increase awareness about accessibility issues within the organization and the broader community. With 2,300 students and 340 employees regularly accessing the website, this project will create a more accessible and user-friendly digital experience for the entire community.

**Brandon Chamber of Commerce - \$1,915.20**

This project aims to enhance digital accessibility to the chamber's website by providing real-time accessibility adjustments, ensuring compliance with the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, while improving the user experience for individuals with diverse needs.

**Brandon Seniors for Seniors Co-op - \$39,314**

This project aims to establish a volunteer-based transportation program that provides safe, accessible and reliable rides for seniors to medical appointments, grocery shopping, social events and community activities. It will address barriers to mobility, promote independence and foster social connection, ensuring seniors can participate fully in community life.

**City of Selkirk - \$39,380**

This project will provide accessibility training for staff responsible for citizen communications, as well as the redevelopment of the city's website and communication materials.

**Community Futures Manitoba - \$44,825**

This project aims to develop training on the Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation for Community Futures staff across 16 rural and northern Manitoba areas. Community Futures Manitoba will also develop tailored accessible information and communication training for the public in rural, northern and First Nations communities. Highly interactive courses will be developed and delivered through instructor-led workshops, with reference materials for ongoing use.

**DASCH Foundation - \$43,700**

This project will develop a series of informational videos featuring personal stories from DASCH participants about the challenges they have faced in the hiring process. The videos will be shared through social media and other channels to raise awareness among local businesses and encourage them to review hiring practices for inclusiveness. Alongside the video campaign, DASCH will also create a series of hands-on, interactive workshops for employers, developed with input from individuals with intellectual disabilities. The workshops will cover topics such as understanding unconscious bias, building partnerships with diverse organizations and implementing effective onboarding practices to support inclusion.

**Direct Farm Marketing Association of Manitoba Co-op - \$6,000**

This project will provide training and tools for farmers markets' organizers to provide more accessible communications at events. It will raise awareness about Manitoba's accessibility standards and the barriers customers and vendors may face. Tools and training will be provided through the inclusion of a workshop at the spring farmers' market manager gathering, an online webinar, and a toolkit available for farm and market members. In addition, an audit of Direct Farm Manitoba's website will be conducted, and the tools and training will guide Direct Farm Manitoba's own social media and communications strategy.

**Flourish Leadership Development - \$9,000**

This project aims to improve the accessibility of the organization's website, newsletter, marketing, client onboarding and workshop training materials. Key activities include a website and newsletter redesign, accessible design and communications consulting support and the creation of accessible marketing templates and training documents. The organization reaches a significant number of people through its training, support and social media initiatives and this project will help ensure greater accessibility for those they serve and those looking to work with them.

**Friends of Dalnavert Museum - \$3,000**

This project will create a guidebook describing the exhibits, eliminating barriers for visitors who cannot participate in guided tours. The guidebook will provide historical information and photos of each room, allowing visitors to explore the space at their own pace and in a way that suits their needs. This will complement the existing virtual tour, which can sometimes be overwhelming for some visitors. The project will involve hiring a graphic designer to transform tour information into an accessible guidebook format, which will be printed and made available to all visitors, improving the accessibility of the museum's offerings.

**Friends of the Living Prairie Museum - \$22,100**

This project will conduct accessibility reviews of Friends of the Living Prairie Museum and the Living Prairie Museum's site, educational programming, public events and communication approaches to ensure that they meet or exceed the requirements outlined under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and accessibility standards. Reviews will be conducted by professional accessibility consultants, led by people with disabilities. This project will also include training for volunteers and staff to improve customer service and communication.

**Level It Up - \$26,805**

This project aims to promote autistic voices and perspectives during the hiring process. It will engage autistic user-experience consultants to review both website and e-learning platform content through an autistic lens, provide feedback and assist in developing informational marketing videos featuring past and current job seekers. The project will also convene employer and service provider focus groups to identify training and development needs and then create an employer and service provider training package delivered by autistic workshop facilitators. The goal is to provide employers with strategies to make recruitment, onboarding and staff retention more accessible to autistic and neurodiverse employees.

**Lipedema Manitoba Association - \$48,170**

This project aims to address accessibility gaps through public awareness campaigns, health-care provider education and patient support initiatives. The initiative includes several key activities aimed at supporting individuals with lipedema, such as educating clinicians and fostering collaboration, launching a brochure campaign and creating a video series highlighting lived experiences. A comprehensive and accessible website will be developed to feature a database of care providers, educational materials, event listings and promoting inclusivity. The program will also organize in-person and virtual support meetups and implement accessible adaptive fitness programs.

**Manitoba Association of Optometrists - \$46,307.78**

This project focuses on improving digital accessibility, enhancing communication channels and developing resources to align with the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation. The Manitoba Association of Optometrists aims to achieve full website compliance in accordance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA.

**Manitoba Children's Museum - \$35,750**

This project focuses on implementing automated digital signage systems as an accessible and efficient communication tool for the Manitoba Children's Museum. This system will enable operators to send targeted information to various audiences including general visitors, staff and individuals with disabilities. Utilizing specialized networked audio-visual hardware and software, the system will allow for the creation, scheduling and control of customized content for broadcast across multiple locations at specific times. The project will engage vendors for hardware and software procurement and collaborate with professionals such as designers and translators to develop inclusive content with feedback from disability patrons.

**Manitoba Deaf Sports Association - \$5,000**

This project will include an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Manitoba Deaf Sports Association while raising awareness about unnecessary barriers and supporting compliance with the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its accessibility standards. The event will also showcase historical sporting achievements and items from deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes who have won medals, while competing without interpreters, highlighting the need for equity in the hearing sports environment.

**Manitoba League for Persons with Disabilities - \$44,445**

This project seeks to deliver Indigenous-led training on the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and accessibility standards to off-reserve communities. It will be facilitated by an Indigenous consultant with lived experience. The training will be culturally adapted and conducted in-person in areas with reliable internet access. An advisory committee of Indigenous Elders and Manitoba League for Persons with Disabilities staff will revise existing training materials to better reflect the unique needs of these communities. The initiative also includes creating a network of trained organizations, offering additional resources and producing a report on identified accessibility barriers.

**Manitoba Métis Federation - \$45,757.30**

This project will develop a framework to ensure programs and services are accessible for all Red River Métis citizens. The framework will be shared with other Manitoba Métis Federation departments, as well as used when advocating for citizens with the provincial and federal government.

**Manitoba Possible - \$36,300**

This project will involve the undertaking of an accessibility consultation to address the removal of potential barriers to in-person information and services, including the development of accessible wayfinding and signage, at a new client service centre which will open to the public in April 2026.

**Minnedosa Regional Library - \$9,400**

This project aims to acquire large print materials to meet the growing demand from patrons. The project envisions creating a mobile collection for senior care facilities, ensuring those unable to visit the library can still access reading materials for education and enjoyment. Enhancing access to such resources is essential for improving the quality of life for seniors and others in the community.

**Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne - \$1,500**

This project aims to conduct a feasibility study to identify necessary digital enhancements for compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 Level AA or higher.

**Rural Municipality of Alexander - \$22,335**

This project will undertake a comprehensive accessibility audit to evaluate the physical spaces, communication methods and digital platforms for existing barriers. This assessment will involve engaging individuals with disabilities, community groups and municipal staff to gather insights on specific challenges and review current policies for potential accessibility barriers. Informed by the findings, a detailed accessibility plan will be developed, outlining the priorities and resources needed to address the identified issues. Additionally, training programs for municipal employees to educate them on best practices for supporting accessibility will be developed. Through this multi-faceted approach, the goal is to remove barriers and foster a truly inclusive environment for all community members, visitors and employees.

**Rural Municipality (RM) of Argyle - \$9,900**

The RM of Argyle is committed to making municipal meetings and community events more accessible to all residents including seniors and individuals with visual, hearing or physical impairments. This project will involve the implementation of meeting devices and a projector to improve accessibility and engagement for community members attending council meetings and events at municipal facilities. The device will allow remote participation, while the projector will display real-time captions, visual aids and other materials in a clear, enlarged format. Through this project, the RM of Argyle will provide meaningful, long-term accessibility improvements for council meetings and public discussions, ensuring that all residents can stay informed, engaged and actively participate in their community.

**RM of Lac du Bonnet - \$45,450**

This project will upgrade the RM of Lac du Bonnet website to align with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 Level AA, ensuring it becomes a universally accessible and user-friendly platform for all residents including those with disabilities. Key activities include conducting an accessibility audit, implementing design and development change requirements, reviewing and remediating content, testing for assistive technology compatibility, conducting user testing and providing training and awareness for staff. The project will improve the user experience for residents and contribute to a more inclusive community by providing equal access to information, services and civic engagement opportunities.

**Russell and District Regional Library - \$5,500**

This project aims to enhance accessibility by expanding the library's large print book collection and integrating the collection into the library system. Key activities include identifying diverse titles and cataloging and arranging the collection. The project will also promote awareness through a campaign to community by offering workshops, outreach and events. Goals include increasing accessibility to reading materials, improved literacy and engagement, and greater community inclusivity.

**Simaril - \$4,920**

This project aims to improve the accessibility of Simaril's new website to comply with the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and meet Web Accessibility Content Guidelines 2.1 Level AA standards. The project will involve a thorough accessibility audit of the website, implement necessary updates and remove barriers for individuals with disabilities, creating an accessibility statement page, providing staff training on accessibility best practices, and ensuring clear, concise and inclusive copywriting. This initiative reflects Simaril's commitment to creating an inclusive digital environment that benefits people with disabilities, while also improving access for users with slower internet connections or limited technological knowledge. The project's activities aim to raise awareness, develop tools and resources and remove barriers to information and communication for all Manitobans.

**Sport Manitoba - \$5,500**

This project will deliver training on the topics of disability awareness, accessible recreation and anti-ableism. Training will be provided to Sport Manitoba staff, provincial sport organization staff and volunteers. This project improves the accessibility of programs and events, while also improving accessible communication across the greater provincial sport organization networks.

**The Manitoba Museum - \$41,800**

This project focuses on enhancing accessibility through a multi-faceted approach including implementing the AIRA app and digital wayfinding tools to provide on-demand, remote visual interpreting services for blind and low-vision visitors. The project also includes improving the museum's website to ensure compatibility with screen readers and optimized for assistive technologies, providing extensive training for staff and volunteers to better support accessibility needs, and establishing inclusive hiring practices. By implementing these initiatives, The Manitoba Museum aims to create a welcoming and accessible environment for all, removing barriers and fostering an inclusive experience for visitors, employees and volunteers.

**Theatre Projects Manitoba - \$4,600**

This project will feature versions of scripts for performances with audio description and American sign language interpretation. Theatre Projects Manitoba aims to increase the number of patrons benefiting from these accessibility services. The project intends to provide increased access for patrons during the following season.

**Transportation Options Network for Seniors - \$38,645.72**

This project will launch a comprehensive project to improve the accessibility and customer service experience for older adults and individuals with disabilities using vehicle-for-hire transportation across the province. The project will include an environmental scan to determine the existing training available, as well as the specific needs and challenges faced by older adults when using these transportation services. Based on the findings, Transportation Options Network for Seniors will develop a collection of training materials including documents, fact sheets and e-learning modules covering topics such as ageism, dementia-friendly practices, and accessibility considerations related to vision, mobility and hearing. These training resources will be made freely available and accessible on the website. The project aims to increase the level of customer service training for vehicle-for-hire providers, as well as to enhance the accessibility and usage of these transportation services within communities across the province.

**True North Youth Foundation - \$6,960**

This project will enhance the accessibility of Project 11 by integrating American sign language interpretation into its digital resources, ensuring that students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can fully engage with Project 11's mental wellness curriculum. The initiative aligns with the Accessibility for Manitobans Act by removing barriers to communication and ensuring equitable access to mental wellness education. By implementing this project, the True North Youth Foundation will remove a significant communication barrier in mental wellness education, ensuring that all students can benefit from the valuable lessons that Project 11 provides.

**Turning Leaf Support Services - \$40,500**

This project aims to enhance accessibility in three key areas training, brand guide improvements and website accessibility. Its goal is to exceed accessibility standards by removing barriers for individuals with disabilities including service users, support networks, employees and partners. The project will provide necessary training to ensure inclusive experiences across various interactions, setting a high standard in the sector and inspiring other agencies to follow suit. Key activities include a webinar series focused on accessibility for communicators and designers, the development of new branding tools to improve internal and external communication and enhancements to website accessibility for all users.

**Winnipeg Airports Authority - \$22,550**

The Winnipeg Airports Authority will conduct a comprehensive audit that identifies barriers and provides strategic solutions. This process will involve engaging with staff and key decision makers including the 'mYWG' Accessibility Committee, which consists of representatives from Manitoba Possible, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, St. Amant and Inclusion Winnipeg, as well as individuals with lived experience. Insights will help shape audit priorities, workflow improvements and content strategies. Upon completion, the final report will guide the Winnipeg Airports Authority's ongoing accessibility efforts, while serving as a valuable resource for other organizations across Manitoba.

**Winnipeg Trails Association - \$16,400**

This project will allow Winnipeg Trails to work with six pilot schools to create a written Winter Activity Accessibility Guide with an accompanying video story. The project deliverables will be a written guide and an accompanying video story to instruct schools on how to set up and host adaptive winter activities for students and surrounding communities. This guide will be based off the plans and maps from six pilot schools and will include a step-by-step guide for schools to follow to create their own accessible winter activities that are adapted for neurodivergent people and those with physical and intellectual disabilities.