



NEWS RELEASE

AMM welcomes Independent Review of Accessibility Legislation

February 28, 2019 - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) welcomes yesterday's [release](#) of an independent review of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)*.

The AMM and Manitoba's 137 municipalities remain committed to supporting the need to maximize opportunities for all Manitobans to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of everyday life.

As the review recognizes, Manitoba municipalities of all sizes have taken significant steps to promote and achieve greater accessibility despite limited fiscal capacity. The AMM is particularly proud of municipal efforts that have enhanced accessible customer service across Manitoba that were detailed in the review such as holding Council meetings in alternative accessible locations to accommodate individuals experiencing barriers or proactively broadcasting Council deliberations in multiple formats.

"The AMM supports greater accessibility for all Manitobans," stated AMM President Ralph Groening. "The AMM would like to thank Theresa Harvey Pruden for her dedicated efforts in reviewing the AMA legislation and we urge the Province of Manitoba to implement the recommendations in her comprehensive final report," added Groening.

In particular, the AMM supports the following key recommendations:

- establish an awards program for municipalities to showcase innovative and/or exemplary successes in advancing accessibility (p. 47);
- clarify the responsibilities of the Accessibility Advisory Council with regards to transparency, scheduling, and appointments to standard development committees (p. 53-54);
- amend the requirements to document policies and measures for all accessibility standards so that it applies to organizations with 50 or more employees (p. 58);
- ensure that tools developed to promote implementation of the AMA are practical and 'user friendly' (p. 61);
- tailor tools to reflect small municipalities' unique realities (p. 57).

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