

Department of Families

Compliance Secretariat
The Accessibility for Manitobans Act
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Ministère des Familles

Secrétariat chargé de l'observation des dispositions Loi sur l'accessibilité pour les Manitobains 114, rue Garry, bureau 205 Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3C 4V4 **Tél.** 204-792-0263 **Téléc.** 204 945-2156 www.manitoba.ca/index.fr.html

November 14, 2023

Hello:

<u>The Accessibility for Manitobans Act</u> was enacted in 2013 and provides a process to remove barriers for people with disabilities. Regulated accessibility standards are the building blocks for making real, measurable and effective changes to accessibility. Each accessibility standard outlines specific requirements and timelines for organizations that have a responsibility to comply with The Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

On May 1, 2022 Manitoba passed the <u>Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation</u>. The purpose of this regulation is to remove and prevent barriers that exist digitally, in print, or through interaction with technology or people. The Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation builds on the existing requirements of The Manitoba Human Rights Code and addresses the need for organizations to consider the ways in which Manitobans of all abilities interact with or access information, including websites.

By May 1, 2024, all designated organizations will be required to comply with this regulation.

Designated organizations include:

- Manitoba's 10 largest municipalities; Winnipeg, Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Morden, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, Thompson, and Winkler
- Health authorities including Shared Health, Cancer Care, and regional health authorities
- Educational institutions, including The Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology, adult learning centres, private vocational institutions, public and independent schools, and universities and colleges

- Municipal and regional libraries
- Government agencies as defined in section 1 of <u>The Financial Administration Act</u>

To help organizations prepare to comply, the Government of Manitoba has developed several tools and resources, which are listed and hyperlinked below.

- Introduction to the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication
- Frequently Asked Questions: Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication
- Checklist for Educational Institutions: The Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication
- Checklist for Libraries: The Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication
- Checklist for Public Sector Organizations: The Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication

The accessible information and communication online learning module will be available in advance of the compliance deadline of May 1, 2024. To meet the training requirement in the standard, please visit The Accessibility for Manitobans Act Online Learning Portal and complete the training module. Once finished, "Certificates of Completion" can be saved or printed to demonstrate compliance.

For more information regarding The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its regulations, including documents with practical tips for creating accessible documents, please visit the Manitoba Accessibility Office website.

Thank you for your attention and continued efforts to remove barriers and achieve accessible information and communication in Manitoba. If you have any questions related to compliance with the requirements of The Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation, please contact the Accessibility ComplianceSecretariat at (204) 792-0263 or accessibilitycompliance@gov.mb.ca.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dubik

Deputy Minister of the Department of Families, and Director under The Accessibility for Manitobans Act

cc. Lucia Madariaga-Vignudo, Assistant Director Accessibility Compliance Secretariat

This communication is available in alternate formats, upon request. To request an alternate format, please email accessibilitycompliance@gov.mb.ca or call (204) 792-0263.