# Robust and Effective Implementation of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act

**Mover: Barrier Free Manitoba (moved by individual members Patrick Falconer & Leanne Fenez)**

*This is a renewed resolution from 2019 with significant updates.*

**Whereas**: Manitobans with disabilities face a multitude of barriers that prevent their full participation in the economy and in their communities in areas including education, job training, communications, housing, public and private transportation, health care and government services.

**Whereas**: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The Canadian Human Rights Act and The Manitoba Human Rights Code reflect an abiding commitment to equitable access for persons with disabilities as a basic human right.

**Whereas:** In October 2013, CCEDNet – Manitoba supported the call for strong and effective provincial accessibility-rights legislation in Manitoba given that existing laws, policies and mechanisms were unable to provide for the comprehensive prevention and removal of barriers.

**Whereas**: The Manitoba Legislature passed the landmark The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) by a unanimous vote of all members in December 2013 to provide for the comprehensive prevention and removal of barriers.

**Whereas:** Barrier Free Manitoba has called for the province to ensure the robust and effective implementation of the AMA that will meet the following principles:
- Cover all disabilities.
- Reflect a principled approach to accessibility that respects human rights enshrined in provincial, national and international law.
- Provide for the development and enactment of mandatory and date-specific standards in all major areas related to accessibility that:
  - Apply to the governmental, private and not-for-profit sectors.
  - Provide for the prevention and systemic removal of barriers at the earliest possible date.
- Support robust enforcement and reporting on compliance to the standards of the AMA through the Compliance Secretariat and other governmental mechanisms.

- Incorporate and sustain ongoing leadership roles for the disability community, as well as meaningful and timely opportunities for consultations with all persons affected by disabilities.
- Be as transparent and open as the law allows, including the public availability of clear, accurate, complete, relevant and timely information on both process and outcomes.
- Provide for public accountability of progress and results.
- Not diminish other legal and human rights protections.
- Adhere to the spirit and the language identified in the AMA.

**Whereas**: The AMA establishes the Minister's responsibility for achieving significant progress toward achieving accessibility within the first decade following passage of the AMA (by 2023) but does not establish date-specific requirements for measures beyond the tabling of plans and reports.

**Whereas**: CCEDNET previously approved a 2019 – 21 policy resolution in support of Barrier-Free Manitoba's call for the timely and effective implementation of the AMA.

**Whereas**: True accessibility is required for Community Economic Development to thrive, and to achieve a vision of sustainable, equitable, and inclusive communities. Full implementation of the AMA across the province, including by CED organizations and enterprises, is vital.

**Whereas**: This resolution fits within the theme area Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access of the CCEDNet Manitoba public policy road map.

**Whereas**: Only three of five promised accessibility standards was in force after almost 9 years of implementation and the province has missed many of its own date targets for progress.

**Be It Resolved That**: The Province of Manitoba commits to the timely, effective, fulsome, and well-resourced implementation of the AMA.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced**: CCEDNet – Manitoba and member organizations continue to support Barrier Free Manitoba's call for the timely and effective implementation of the AMA. CCEDNet and member's support will extend to disability community representatives, beyond Barrier Free Manitoba, advocating for the AMA's timely and effective implementation.