



MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

To All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

I have the privilege of presenting for your information, the Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Myrna Driedger', is positioned below the text 'Respectfully Submitted,'.

Honourable Myrna Driedger
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and
Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly
Management Commission

Composition of the Commission

Members as at March 31, 2018

Honourable Myrna Driedger, MLA
Speaker and Chairperson

Honourable Cliff Cullen
Government House Leader

Ms. Nahanni Fontaine
Official Opposition House Leader

Mr. Wayne Ewasko, MLA

Mr. Tom Lindsey, MLA

Mr. Andrew Micklefield, MLA

Mr. Greg Nesbitt, MLA

Mr. Matt Wiebe, MLA

Secretary to the Commission

Ms. Patricia Chaychuk
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

COMMISSION PROCESS

This is the annual report to the Legislative Assembly of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission (the Commission) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018.

The Commission is comprised of the Speaker as Chairperson, four MLAs appointed by the government caucus and three from the official opposition caucus. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is the Secretary.

During the 2017/2018 fiscal year the Commission held meetings on the following dates to consider various matters:

April 10, 2017	October 11, 2017
May 15, 2017	November 24, 2017
May 29, 2017	December 11, 2017
August 29, 2017	January 23, 2018

The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act assigns the following duties and responsibilities to the Commission:

- carrying out those Rules of the Assembly and those provisions of *The Legislative Assembly Act* which relate to the financial management of the Assembly;
- reviewing the estimates of expenditure and the establishment of positions for staff required for the proper conduct of the business operation of the Assembly and for the Assembly offices and for the Auditor General, the Registrar appointed under The Lobbyists Registration Act, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Information and Privacy Adjudicator appointed under The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Children's Advocate, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner appointed under The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Act, and the Ombudsman and respective offices;
- in cooperation with the government, providing facilities and services required by the Members of the Assembly, by the caucuses of the various parties to the Assembly and by the leaders of the parties in opposition;
- formulating administrative policies in respect of the Clerk and the offices required for the administration of the Assembly, *The Legislative Assembly Act* and *The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act*;
- maintaining a proper system of security for the Chamber and the Assembly Offices, subject to the administrative authority of the department of the executive government of the province charged with the responsibility for such security; and

- advising and giving directions respecting the efficient and effective operations and management of the Assembly.

Meetings are held in camera, however Officers of the Assembly and staff required to be present may attend. Members of the Assembly who are not Commission members may attend Commission meetings if so invited by the Commission.

Decisions about the following matters are not included in the minutes of the Commission and by statute must not be disclosed or made available for inspection:

- (a) a personal matter relating to one or more employees of the Assembly or to one or more assembly offices;
- (b) a legal matter involving existing or anticipated legal proceedings;
- (c) a matter relating to the preparation of annual estimates of expenditure of the Assembly and the assembly offices.

The Speaker must also ensure that the minutes circulated or posted do not contain information that identifies an individual.

As of November 2009, the minutes of Commission meetings, and the Annual Report of the Commission are posted on the Legislative Assembly website.

This report provides an overview of the decisions and recommendations made by the Commission.

2017/2018

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

2018/2019 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES

The Commission met on December 11, 2017 and January 23 and 30, 2018 to consider and approve the 2018/2019 Estimates for the Legislative Assembly and for the offices of the Independent Officers of the Assembly.

ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

According to s.37 of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*, there is a legislative requirement for the Commission to report actions taken by the Commission with respect to accessibility issues. The wording of the Act states:

s. 37 In carrying out its duties and responsibilities under *The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act*, the Legislative Assembly Management Commission must

- (a) have regard for any accessibility standards; and
- (b) report to the public – at the times and in the manner the commission considers appropriate – the measures, policies, practices and other requirements implemented by the commission to make progress towards achieving accessibility in respect of the Assembly and its offices.

Over the years, the Assembly and the Commission have undertaken a number of measures to enhance accessibility for Members of the Legislative Assembly, and for the public to access the Assembly and information provided by the Assembly. Some of these initiatives were completed in cooperation with the provincial government. These measures include:

- In 1993, a designated section in the Assembly Public Gallery underwent renovations to provide space for persons in wheelchairs and other mobility devices to watch the Assembly in session. In addition, a wheelchair lift was added outside one of the Gallery doors to provide access to the Public Galleries;
- In 2006 and 2013, the platform lifts were upgraded to provide newer models of platform lifts capable of handling the heavier weight of contemporary wheelchairs;
- Closed captioning was added to the broadcasting of Routine Proceedings in 2001;
- Standing Committees have provided American sign language interpretation and live closed captioning of proceedings upon request since 2011;
- In 2013, the Commission approved an annual budget for the Committees Branch to provide accessibility services during the process of public presentations to legislation, including the provision of sign language and real time closed captioning;

- In cooperation with Government, improvements were made to the Assembly's Public Gallery in 2015 to enhance audio, provide better floor lighting to reduce trip hazards, widen and improve stair treads, and improve visibility of stairs;
- From 2015 – 2017, an advisory committee was struck to look into the issue of enhancing accessibility in the Chamber. The committee consisted of representatives from the Speaker's Office, the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Hansard, Visitor Tours, Accommodation Services, Historic and Cultural Resources, representatives from the disabled community and advisory groups, the City of Winnipeg Accessibility Coordinator, the Disabilities Issues Office, project architects and contractors. From the discussions and investigations undertaken by this advisory committee a number of recommendations were acted on to enhance accessibility;
- In 2016, it was agreed that any MLA requiring personal assistance such as a personal assistant, a service dog, sign language interpretation, real time closed captioning device, voice simulation or any other such reasonable personal assistance can have such assistance present in the Assembly without requiring the leave of the Legislative Assembly;
- In 2016, based on recommendations from the advisory committee, the third row of seating for Members of the Legislative Assembly Chamber was renovated to make the desks and seats accessible for those using mobility devices;
- In 2016, a touch screen monitor was configured to provide an MLA with movement challenges, the ability to have an aide signal for the attention of the Speaker, the Table Officers, the Pages, and the intention to speak in debate, by touching the screen on behalf of the Member;
- Also in 2016, the Speaker and Clerk investigated and observed the operations of platform lifts located in other cities to determine whether a platform lift would be a suitable option for providing access to the floor of the Legislative Chamber for persons using mobility devices. After they watched those lifts in operation, they reported back to the advisory committee with concerns. The idea of using a platform lift was discarded due to the noise level, the potential for mechanical breakdown, and for the lack of discretion for persons using the lift. The advisory committee after discussion instead returned to the idea of installing a wheelchair ramp. Previously, this idea had been rejected because the dimensions of the Chamber made the slope of a ramp too steep, however with the creative thinking of raising the floor of the Assembly Chamber, it was determined that a wheelchair ramp could indeed be installed that would conform to code requirements.
- In 2017, the Commissioner for MLA Indemnities, Allowances and Pension Benefits added, at the request of the Assembly, \$5,000 to the Constituency Allowances of all MLAs, specifically to provide renovations to constituency offices to enhance accessibility. This funding is in place for the duration of the Legislature;
- In 2017, based on recommendations from the advisory committee, the Legislative Assembly Chamber underwent significant renovations to enhance accessibility. The Chamber floor was raised by four and a half feet in order to provide the proper slope for the installation of a wheelchair ramp. With the installations of the ramp, access to the Chamber floor is now

possible for anyone using a mobility device. In addition, the first row of desks on both sides of the Assembly Chamber were moved in order to provide a proper wheelchair turning radius, meaning that MLAs using mobility devices could sit on the front benches on either side of the Assembly Chamber. The Speaker's chair and the Clerks' table are now also accessible. This renovation was completed on time and under budget and was so well done that it won a Heritage Winnipeg award; it was also a finalist for Project of the Year award and won acclaim from notable activist Rick Hansen;

- In 2018, the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly gave a presentation to the 35th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference to discuss the important renovation work completed in the historic Assembly Chamber to enhance accessibility. The presentation shared the journey of how the renovations were undertaken, based on the recommendations of the advisory committee. It also made the point that even in heritage historic buildings it is possible to improve accessibility. Given the age and architecture of the Chambers of many Canadian legislatures, this is an important message to share.



Before the renovations



After the renovations



Wheelchair Ramp

Future accessibility initiatives will be included in the annual reports of the Commission.

USE OF CHAMBER PHOTOS BY CONTRACTORS

A request was made to the Commission by contractors who installed new drapery, painted the Chamber walls and conducted accessibility renovations in the Chamber to publish photos of the completed projects for their portfolios. Permission was granted with the caveat that the contractors agree to sign an agreement to only use the photographs in portfolios and to not use the photos as part of advertising campaigns.