

ANNUAL REPORT

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Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities

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Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities Annual Report 24-25

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Land Acknowledgement

Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities acknowledges that the work we do to support Manitobans with disabilities/gifts takes place on the traditional lands and waterways of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, as well the homeland of the Metis Nation. We respect the treaties made here, and all locations we are participating from, and are grateful to work, live, and interact on this land.

Mission Statement

MLPD is a united, cross-disability voice, promoting a fully accessible and inclusive Manitoba.

Philosophy

- 1) Manitobans with disabilities/gifts have the same rights and responsibilities as any other person.
- 2) All persons, regardless of abilities, must have access to opportunities in order to exercise these rights.
- 3) An accessible and inclusive society benefits everyone.

Supporters

The work of MLPD to increase accessibility in Manitoba is made possible by the following:

Foundations and Community Organizations:

- The Allan Simpson Memorial Fund at the Winnipeg Foundation
- The Thomas Sill Foundation Inc.
- Michael John Rosner Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba

Governments:

- Government of Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada
 - The Social Development Partnership Program, Disability Component
- Government of Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada
 - New Horizons 2024-2025
- Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Accessibility Fund 2024-2025

Private Donations:

- Individual supporters like YOU!

Special Thanks:

- Special thanks to our social enterprise customers: Bison Transport, Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, T.E.A.M.S. Transportation, Payne Transportation, Northway Aviation, CancerCare Manitoba, CMHA Winnipeg, Malteurop, Peg City Car Co-op, The

Forks Market, CPA Manitoba, Survivors Hope Crisis Centre, and Propworks Propellor Systems.

Message from Council Chair



Hello MLPD Members!

I am truly honoured to share the inspiring journey and achievements of the MLPD Provincial Council with you all. First, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow Council members for their exceptional teamwork and strategic guidance, which have played a crucial role in advancing MLPD's mission and vision. Our focus on three main priorities—strengthening MLPD as the foremost authority in Manitoba's accessibility movement, progressing MLPD's reconciliation journey, and honing MLPD's strategic objectives—has been the backbone of the Council's work this year. I also want to acknowledge and

commend the exemplary efforts of MLPD's staff, lived experience assessors, and volunteers, particularly our outstanding executive director, Melissa Graham, whose leadership has been instrumental in MLPD's ongoing success.

This marks my second year as MLPD's Council Chair. I remain very thankful for the chance to serve our community and appreciate the trust you have placed in me. As many of you know, I have been accepted into Brock University's Master of Social Justice and Equity Studies program and will begin my studies this fall. As a result, I will not be seeking re-election to the Chairperson role; however, I will continue to serve proudly on the Council.

In February, our team participated in training to enhance our skills in social enterprise management. Throughout the year, we met several times to develop MLPD's long-term strategic plan and are in the early stages of creating a fundraising strategy. These projects are ongoing, and we look forward to providing more updates soon. Additionally, we have been hard at work organizing MLPD's 50th anniversary celebration, which is set for this fall. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting event in the newsletter.

At the municipal level, our secretary, Julia Valença Schoen represented MLPD on the Winnipeg Transit Plus Public Advisory Board this year. Julia advocated for improved service delivery and kept our Council updated on Transit Plus developments. Alongside other community partners, she and Melissa worked tirelessly to hold Winnipeg

Transit accountable through various service delivery changes made this year.



Together with Melissa, MLPD's Council continues to build relationships with our NDP provincial government, opening MLPD to new collaboration and business development opportunities. To keep our Council informed about national accessibility news and initiatives this year, our 1st Vice Chair, Laurie Helgason, represented MLPD at the Canadian Council of Disabilities. This critical role is vital for our Council to foster and maintain connections with accessibility-focused organizations across Canada.

I want to express my gratitude to our outgoing Council members, Alan Levy and Erin Honke, for their steadfast support and commitment to MLPD throughout their time on the Council. These two remarkable individuals provided vital leadership to MLPD. Both have served our Council for six years and will be sorely missed.

Together, we are making meaningful progress in advocating for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, fostering positive partnerships, and actively contributing to the reconciliation process. I am thankful for the chance to work alongside such extraordinary individuals and look forward to MLPD's continued success and positive impact in the upcoming year. Thank you for your steadfast support and dedication to our shared vision.

Thank you, Miigwetch

Jennifer Breddam

Chair, MLPD Provincial Council



Executive Director's Report

Greetings MLPD Members and Friends,

It is a pleasure to be writing this annual report for 2024-25, as MLPD approaches its 50th anniversary. We have a lot to be proud of this year.

Since 2023, we have supported 23 organizations to become accessible. That's almost one organization per month. In those same two years, we have provided work experience for over 30 people with disabilities. We continue to build relationships with our Indigenous community partners, including All Spirits Gathering that we've held now for two years in a row.

We also continue to provide community navigation supports to our community members with accessibility barriers, providing at least 70 hours of service in the past year. This is a part of our work that strikes me as particularly important, community members call us on the phone, send us an email, or drop by our door and we do what we can to provide them with support.

Since April I've been taking on more of these community navigation calls, and there's a common theme among them. People tell me over and over again that they come to MLPD because we understand, we've been there, we come from lived experience. I reminded again how rare it is to lead an organization like ours. So many organizations across the country that were once led by people with disabilities are no longer led by our community, or at least people with lived experience do not have the majority of decision-making power. I recently read a statistic that only one in 10 nonprofits of hired someone with a disability, and I haven't found any statistics about the number of people with disabilities and nonprofit management.

I think for many of us to access services to meet our needs feel this lack of representation. It means something to have an organization led by our community. When we find ourselves fighting, as we do right now, for the survival of the organization, this is what I keep in mind. I think of those people who come to our door not so much because they have disabilities, but because we do.

It is a difficult time for MLPD right now. This has been a difficult acknowledgement for me to make because as you will see in this report, 2024 was a very good year for the organization. We've been out in community with our S(NO)W Plow campaign, hosting an event for Disability Pride, and we hauled and all candidates debate for the federal election just a few short months ago. Unfortunately, the same accessibility consulting work that gives the space to support our community members, is hard to come by in difficult economic times.



As your staff team at MLPD, we are doing our very best to push through this challenge. I want to thank Sheryl Peters, our Project Manager for guiding the way through many of our projects, and always seeming to be there when our community members need support, including myself. My thanks to Ella Rockar, for her relentless commitment to connecting our community, and for keeping the big dreamers on the staff team slightly tethered to Earth. I also want to thank Debby McLeod, who unfortunately is no longer with MLPD, but we greatly appreciate the joy she brought to the organization, and I know many community members will miss her friendly voice on the phone. I want to thank Jennifer Breddham for her leadership and wisdom as our Council Chair, Brock University is incredibly lucky to have you. My thanks as well to the rest of our Council for keeping us on course and supporting us through these rough waters.

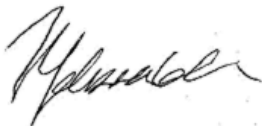
I want to send out a huge Chi-Miigwetch to our Indigenous Advisory Circle– Elder Louise MacKay, Melanie Marsden, Jeannie Whitebird, and Tara Petti. This amazing group of women has given their time, energy, and hearts to MLPD’s reconciliation journey. I am forever grateful to each of them.

Thank you as well to the many students and volunteers who supported our work, and the Accessibility Reviewers that support us in our Accessibility Consulting Service. Finally, my sincere thanks to all of our members, we feel your encouragement, and it really does keep me going.

I wish I could tell you what comes next for MLPD, but I do believe that good things are out there for us. We have withstood the last 50 years, and we can meet this challenge too.

Fifty years ago, Manitobans with all kinds of accessibility barriers got together to create this organization. They fought for accessibility, inclusion, and to build good lives for all of us. Like the rivers that pour through Winnipeg, we remain every flowing, pushing through rocks, changing the world around us, together.

Thank you, Miigwetch, Merci, and in solidarity,



Melissa Graham
Executive Director

Our Team

Melissa Graham: Executive Director

Melissa (*right in photo*) is a lifelong disability justice advocate based out of Winnipeg. She has over a decade of frontline experience, working for the Self-Managed Attendant Services Program in Ontario and other organizations in the disability sector. Melissa holds her Masters in Social Work from the University of Toronto, and was working towards her PhD before accepting her position with MLPD. She has a long history in disability policy and research focused on intersectionality, decolonization, social justice and accessibility. Melissa is well-known for her activist background, particularly as the founder and lead organizer for the Toronto Disability Pride March. She organized this annual event for 11 years while building relationships with other disability grassroots organizations nationally and internationally, and contributing to research on disability movement organizing. She has successfully passed the torch to other organizers to continue the march. She carries what she has learned from this work into the collaborative, social justice work of MLPD.



Sheryl Peters: Projects Manager

Sheryl (*left in photo*) is a Winnipeg-based social researcher, non-profit programs coordinator, and artist. She has experienced life-long invisible disabilities. Sheryl holds a Master's degree in sociology and a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. She was working toward a PhD in sociology when her disability shifted her path. Her previous research and programs work focused on social equity, a social justice approach to autism and disability, health and well-being of women and older adults, person-centred health care, and decolonizing/community-based approaches to research and community work. Sheryl has taught classes in similar topics at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. Sheryl's creative projects include documentary video and community arts – most notably digital storytelling projects with Autistic people, their families and educators, and Indigenous women and girls.



Ella Rockar: Outreach and Communications Coordinator

Ella is MLPD's newest staff member. Ella holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in sociology, through which she focused on program development and evaluation, public policy, and equitable access to housing. Ella has dedicated her career to the non-profit sector. Her work has centered on creating community-based supports to increase housing and sexual healthcare access. Ella is excited to join the MLPD team and lend her expertise in community connection, event planning, and outreach. When not at work, you can find Ella in her garden, with her dog Cleo, or with a book and a big mug of tea.



Our Council

Jennifer Breddam: Chair of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



Jennifer (pictured in the lime green wheelchair) is the Chair of the MLPD Provincial Council. She is a social justice advocate at heart and endeavours to incorporate the values of inclusivity, equity, and authenticity into her life and work. Jenn holds an Advanced Bachelor of Arts Degree in Labour Studies, minoring in Indigenous Studies from the University of Manitoba. Additionally, Jenn is a Burns Leadership Institute Fellow and has studied multilateral diplomacy leadership at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Having built a successful career as a labour relations professional, Jenn has turned her attention toward social development and community-building work. She is passionate about this field, with a particular interest in the intersection of human rights and the world of work. Beyond her leadership role with MLPD's Council, Jenn is actively involved with other social justice

organizations, such as the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties, among other volunteer commitments close to her heart.

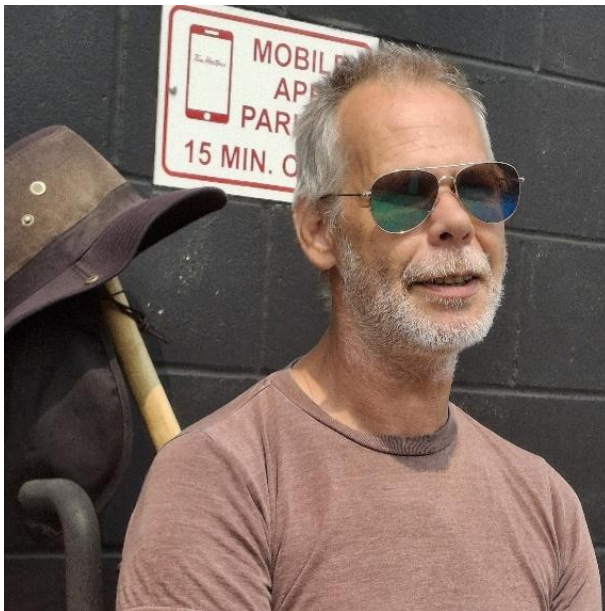
Laurie Helgason: First Vice-Chair of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



Laurie is the 1st Vice Chair and Representative for the Council of Canadians with Disabilities of the MLPD Provincial Council. Laurie acquired a disability in 1995 that required the use of a wheelchair. She then joined the Board of Women's Health Clinic and the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba to try to make change for women with disabilities, positions which she held for 15 years. Laurie founded the DisAbled Women's Network of Manitoba and ran it as Executive Director for 20 years. Laurie was also on the Board and chaired the City of Winnipeg Citizen Equity Committee and served on the Access Advisory Committee for 5 years. Laurie is an advocate for accessible

transportation, having been involved on Transit Committees as well as direct action to increase visibility and acceptance of people with disabilities on transit. Laurie sat on the early board of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities and has been a member of the League for the last 30 years. Laurie is at heart an activist and advocate for all people who face challenges in human rights.

Bobby Mazur: Second Vice-Chair of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



For 10 years, Bobby volunteered for the Health Sciences Centre MS Research Department to help research and approve the only medication available for his disease. Bobby advocates for the homeless, accessibility, and independence for the disabled. He has made many recommendations to Boards and companies on how to improve accessibility. Bobby is a Métis citizen, recognized by the Manitoba Métis Federation. Bobby is volunteering for MLPD, on his homeland of the Red River Nation, as a disabled Métis citizen. Bobby respects all, prides himself in welcoming all the travelers throughout this valley, and serves to assist and accommodate.



Isham Behl: Treasurer of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



Isham is the Treasurer of the MLPD Provincial Council. Isham is a Bachelor of Science student at the University of Manitoba, studying Computer Science, Data Science, and Film. Actively involved in campus life, Isham has held various leadership roles in over 30 student groups. Their extensive volunteer experience also includes work with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the University of Manitoba Student Union's Accessibility Centre, and various national nonprofits. Isham is also dedicated to financial education and advocates for more affordable events, and resources for students.

Júlia Valença Schoen: Secretary of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



Júlia is the Secretary and Representative for the Transit Plus Public Advisory Committee of the MLPD Provincial Council. During her study of Sociology at the University of Manitoba, Júlia faced many new challenges that swayed her into disability studies. Now, the topic of disability rights, especially as it pertains to medical care, has become a core interest of hers and the reason why she jumped at the opportunity to work with the MLPD. She hopes to become more involved in community-based activism that she believes in and the MLPD will hopefully not be her only or last venture of the kind. In her free time she enjoys theater, films, reading, computer games, and crafts like

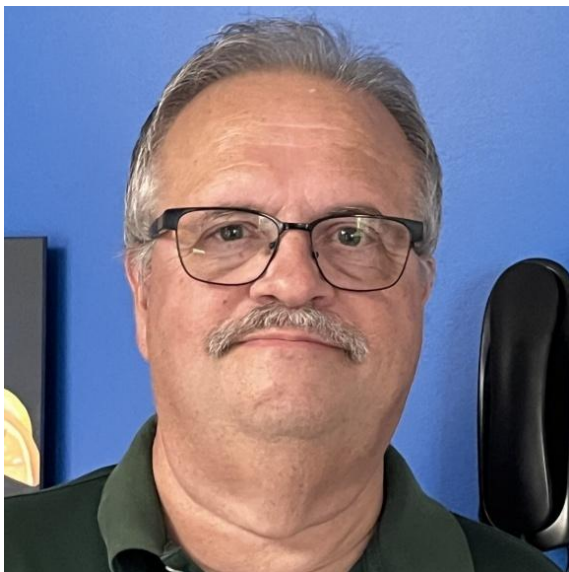
knitting, crochet, sewing, and embroidery.

Alexandrea Nadeau: Provincial Council Member of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities

Alexandrea is a Representative on the MLPD Provincial Council. Alexandrea is currently studying Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba. She has had the privilege of spending most of her life supporting and advocating for others. Some ways she has done this was by creating a leadership forum for young women in South-Central Manitoba, providing after school programming for young girls and non-binary folks through Indigo Girls Group (now Willow Youth Network), and advocating for gender equality in STEM through Pulsar collective. In addition to other advocacy experiences, she has had the opportunity to sit on a couple of boards, such as the United Way, and attend conferences, such as Forum for Young Canadians. Alexandrea is excited and honoured to continue the important work MLPD is doing striving for the inclusion and equality of persons with disabilities and to learn from the amazing individuals in the organization.



Jim Smith: Provincial Council Member of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



Jim is a Representative on the MLPD Provincial Council. Jim is the able-bodied half of an inter-abled couple. Jim ran for a MLPD Council seat because he wants to give back to the community. Jim believes that while there has been a lot of progress in the disability community over the past 20 years, we have a long way to go to make our part of the world truly accessible and inclusive. Jim is hoping that as a part of MLPD, he can do his part in this and help move us forward. Jim is also a longtime member of Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba and a member of Spinal Cord Injury of Alberta. He is the past President of his church board and is on the Board of a Seniors Club in Southeast

Winnipeg. Prior to his retirement, Jim worked in the property and casualty insurance field.



Alan Levy: Provincial Council Member of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



Throughout his career Alan's goal has been to foster and celebrate organizational and societal diverse and inclusive workplaces with a sense of belonging; he has been committed in his organizational and academic work to build teams that reflect a wide variety of skills, perspectives and backgrounds and feel free to express their opinions, this includes his work with whistleblowing. Believing in his research on whistleblowing which only strengthens organizations to be better in their service to all customers and to society, whether in the private or public sectors. Alan holds a BA from the U of W, a Masters of Industrial Relations from the University of Toronto and a Master of

Laws from Osgoode Hall, York University. Alan's conflict resolution work is what separates him from most leaders. Both as an academic and practitioner of conflict resolution models of testing practicality apply to some of the most difficult disputes in the country.

Erin Honke: Provincial Council Member of the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities



Erin is a Representative on the MLPD Provincial Council. Erin Honke, a graduate of the University of Winnipeg's Bachelor of Psychology program, is a passionate advocate for the most vulnerable members of our society. Leading by example, Erin inspires those around her to address social inequality, fostering inclusion, dignity, and respect. As a children's counsellor at a family violence shelter in Winnipeg, she has shown unwavering dedication to supporting those who need it most. Erin is a valued member of MLPD, serving as a representative on the Provincial Council for several years and volunteering her time on the Fundraising Committee of Council. Her outstanding

commitment to MLPD's vision illustrates her determination to make a real and positive impact on the lives of Manitobans.



Chi-Miigwetch to Our Indigenous Advisory Circle



MLPD brought together a circle of Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers in 2023 and 2024 – Elder Louise MacKay, Melanie Marsden, Jeannie Whitebird, and Tara Petti – to develop webinars that focused on making Indigenous cultural events, spaces, and everyday life accessible and how we can all do this together. This year’s webinar was held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on May 25th and was titled “We Journey Together” in Michif, Anishinaabemowin, Cree, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun.

This same wonderful group supported us in organizing our All-Spirits Gathering, connected MLPD with amazing community partners. For the last two years our Circle has offered their time, support, energy and enthusiasm to our staff team, as we support MLPD on its journey towards reconciliation.

We are so grateful to our Indigenous Advisory Circle, which will eventually be renamed to better reflect its role. We are also grateful to the many community partners that have joined us in this journey. Pictured are Grannie Jeannie Whitebird and Grannie Louise McKay joined by friends and MLPD staff at All Spirits Gathering and Full Moon Ceremony in March 2025.

Funded Projects

Sharing Our Knowledge

Through Accessible Canada’s National Access Ability Week program, we partnered with the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and the National Educational Association of Disabled Students to share knowledge. The partnership conducted three webinars during NAAW 2024. On May 25th, MLPD hosted a webinar called We Journey Together, a conversation about being in ceremony in inclusive ways. On May 27th NEADS hosted a webinar called Crip Utopia in Post-Secondary. And again, on May 27th CCD hosted a webinar called Creating Accessible Spaces for those with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities.

Through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, we worked with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders, and young people with disabilities. As part of our efforts towards reconciliation, we held conversations about our experiences and organized a second All

Spirits Gathering. This Gathering was an inclusive, accessible Indigenous Ceremony that took place in May 2025.

Thanks to the funding we received from the Allen Simpson Memorial Fund at the Winnipeg Foundation we were able to provide workshops on different services available in the community discussing housing, income supports, mutual aid, food security, and Indigenous perspectives of accessibility barriers. Our former student Heather created an excellent guide based on the materials and resources from those workshops.

One of the projects we are very excited about is our Service Animal Video Project, made possible by the Manitoba Accessibility Fund. We worked with people who use service animals to create short videos about their experiences. These videos will be shared on social media, and at our upcoming film screening.

Creating Opportunities

The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba funded us to bring together community builders and disabled artists over a series of small events to celebrate disability community and have facilitated conversations, including a event for Disability Pride Month in July.

We continue to work with NEADS to advise on their efforts to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

We also received a LITE Job Grant, which helped us improve our training process for new Accessibility Reviewers involved in our Accessibility Consulting Service.

Accessibility Consulting Services

ACS has expanded again this year, with 15 completed projects and 2 that are wrapping up in the next few weeks. That's over double the amount in the 2023/2024 reporting season! The projects range from smaller endeavors, such as focus groups for CancerCare Manitoba and training sessions for Chartered Professional Accountants of Manitoba, to full reviews including onsite review, policy review, surveys and training, at Klinik Community Health and The Forks.

In the last 2 years of our ACS, MLPD has completed 23 projects and hired and trained 29 people with lived experience of disability from the community to serve as accessibility reviewers. Special thanks to our reviewers who have conducted multiple reviews with us recently – Garth, Janelle-Marie, Alberta, Brian, Lisa, Sara, Patricia, and others.

Our reviewing service allows MLPD to provide employment to people with disabilities/Gifts in our community by sharing their experience and expertise, and it brings accessibility education and recommendations directly into businesses and organizations. The ACS comprises a significant percentage of MLPD's operating revenue that we then use for advocacy at the individual, local and provincial levels, core operations, and other priorities that are outside the scope of existing grants.



Would you like to be an Accessibility Reviewer? Use your lived experience and knowledge of accessibility and the disability community to provide feedback to businesses and organizations. The payment that Accessibility Reviewers receive depends on the level of commitment required for each project. If you would like to be an accessibility reviewer for any of our upcoming projects, please contact the MLPD office or visit <https://mlpd.mb.ca/whats-new/>

Elections Canada

MLPD has been working for two years with Elections Canada on several events around accessibility and elections, culminating with an All Candidates Debate on the Federal Election 2025.

All Candidates Debate on the Federal Election

On April 8, 2025, MLPD organized an All-Candidates Debate on Accessibility in Canada in Winnipeg, moderated by Marcy Markusa from the CBC. About 100 people attended. Candidates from the Liberals, NDP, Green, and Communist parties discussed their positions and answered questions from MLPD and the audience on issues such as housing, the Canada Disability Benefit, protections for healthcare, and other concerns impacting Canadians with accessibility barriers or disabilities. A recording of the event is available on MLPDs YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9i2LPJ-UgA0>

Voter Issues Panel Discussion Webinar

Leading up to the 2025 Canadian Federal Election, MLPD held a webinar featuring speakers from Disability Without Poverty, Barrier Free Manitoba, Right to Housing Coalition, and Elections Canada on the topics of income, the importance of voting, housing, and accessibility features of elections. The video recording of the webinar is available on the MLPD YouTube page at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_xDN9tkZhI

Community Stories: Accessibility Barriers at Elections

As part of MLPD's ongoing project with Elections Canada, we asked our community to provide stories of accessibility barriers at elections. They related physical and attitudinal barriers to the polls in their stories of lived experience accessing the polls. The stories are available on the MLPD website at: <https://mlpd.mb.ca/community-stories-accessibility-barriers-at-elections>.

Knowledge Exchange Day in Ottawa

MLPD participated in a Knowledge Exchange Day in Ottawa with Elections Canada and delegates from community groups across Canada, all of whom held events about access issues broadly for their communities - at the polls, working for elections and running as a candidate.



Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Manitoba

CMHA Manitoba is one of the provincial arms of the national organization, which promotes mental health and supports people recovering from mental illness. MLPD conducted surveys and 6 focus groups (both in-person and virtual), with employees and clients from CMHA organizations across the province to better understand the pain points and barriers in each local organization.

Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre (SHCC)

Policy reviews are new for our consulting service this year – together with our reviewers we completed reviews of employment and accessibility policies for Survivor's Hope and The Forks, and we are hoping to expand this service as we move ahead.

Survivor's Hope is a sexual assault and violence resource centre, serving those of all genders in the Interlake Eastern Region of Manitoba. SHCC provides inclusive support and sexual assault crisis intervention to survivors and those affected by sexualized, acts as an education resource for schools, and engages community and service providers.

The Forks North Portage Partnership



Pictured above: The Grounds around the CN Stage, where many events and festivals are held.



Pictured above: Walking the trails at The Forks. In the winter some of the trails have ice for skating.

We are proud to have conducted a full accessibility review for The Forks North Portage Partnership (TFNP), which included two onsite reviews of The Forks - both winter and summer, a review of employment and accessibility policies, and accessibility training for managers.

The reviewers covered the 52-acre site, encompassing most of its facilities, walking paths, parking lots and harbour in both winter and summer to evaluate accessibility challenges in different seasons. Reviewers visited The Forks, 'secret shopper-style', to assess not only the spaces for accessibility, but also the vendors and services.

The policy reviewers assessed 7 employment policies, including a 43-page employee manual for how the policies might affect employees with different kinds of barriers and gaps in policies to more proactively consider accessibility needs in employment.

For the training, managers of the Forks gathered on a Friday afternoon in May to expand their knowledge of employing, supporting and removing barriers for employees at The Forks. Jeannie Whitebird, Knowledge Keeper and member of MLPD's Indigenous Advisory Circle, joined MLPD staff, providing teachings to ground the discussion in the land, waterways, and understandings from her perspective and lived experience.



Pictured above: Inside the Forks Market at The Common, which serves drinks to food court patrons.



Pictured above: The Market Plaza area outside the Forks Market, which is a skating rink in the winter and serves as a space for seating and entertainment in the warmer months.

Peg City Car Co-op

Along with a review of their communications materials and website, MLPD has been working with Peg City Car Co-op on an exciting new prospect to assess the feasibility of adding 3 accessible vehicles to their fleet. Peg City Car Co-op is a car-sharing service for individuals, families, non-profit organizations and companies. They provide an alternative to car ownership that is more affordable and more environmentally sustainable. For the rest of summer 2025, MLPD is inviting people with accessibility issues and service organizations to participate in a survey about if this is something that people in the disability community would be interested in using and what they would like to have in an accessible vehicle. Please consider adding your voice to the survey: <https://forms.gle/wD49zH37ZSALTHhu7>

Onsite Reviews at Transportation Companies

Teams Transport, Payne Transport, Northway Aviation, and PropWorks Propeller Systems

Following on the success of the accessibility reviews at Bison Transport last year, we held four new onsite reviews for transportation companies.



Pictured above: Reviewer Jackson Reimer in the offices of Payne Transport.



Pictured above: Reviewing in the warehouse at Teams Transport.



Pictured above: Reviewer Alberta Bishop on a cold day in December 2024 at Northway



Pictured above: Reviewers Brian Thorkelson (with Cupcake the service dog), Lisa Yaroshko and Kristen Brown learning about airplane propeller maintenance at PropWorks Propeller Systems.

Focus Groups:

Manitoba Department of Families, CancerCare Manitoba, and East of the Red River Rec Plex

For the Manitoba Department of families, MLPD facilitated a focus group on Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy Renewal Process. Community members discussed their experiences accessing income assistance programs such as EIA, EIA Disability, and the Manitoba Supports program. This supported the Province with their Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The CancerCare Manitoba focus group was focused on whether an at-home test would be of interest to members of the disability community and to have the focus group participants provide feedback on how to make the process and communication materials accessible and inclusive.

The City of Winnipeg consulted with MLPD to convene a focus group about accessibility for the first new rec plex that will be built in Winnipeg in over a quarter century. To be located in Transcona near the Transcona Public Library, The East of the Red River Rec Plex will be a state-of-the-art recreational facility with accessibility features considered in the planning stages

Chartered Professional Accountants of Manitoba (CPA Manitoba)

MLPD staff delivered a two-part, full afternoon of training to employees in various roles at CPA Manitoba. The training was interactive and included both the employment and the new Information and Communication Standard for Accessibility. This new standard came into force for all organizations on May 1, 2025.

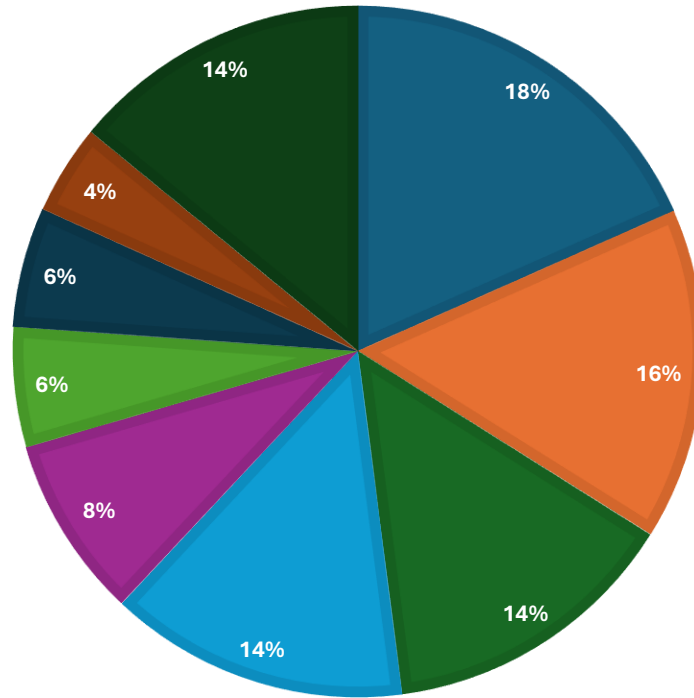
Representing Our Community

Advocacy Calls

At MLPD, we've supported members of the public with community navigation supports, and referrals. Due to staffing changes this year, the exact time spent in these calls is difficult to track, but we estimate well over 70 hours this year.

ADVOCACY CALLS BY TYPE

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income Assistance 18.3% | Transit Plus 15.5% |
| Accessibility Needs 14% | Health Barriers 14% |
| Housing 8.5% | Gender- Based Violence 5.6% |
| Parenting with a Disability 5.6% | Employment Barriers 4.2% |
| Miscellaneous 14% | |



Sidewalk Snow

Once again, MLPD launched our S(NO)W Plow Campaign. We worked with the Vision Impaired Resource Network (VIRN), Accessible Sport Connection, the Independent Living Resource Centre (ILRC), Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba, and the Transportation Options Network for Seniors (TONS), and members of the public to send your photos of sidewalk snow barriers to the City of Winnipeg. We hear from the City that this campaign is very helpful, and we look forward to it again next year.

Support Accessibility in Manitoba

- 1) In Memoriam – you can donate to MLPD in memory, honour or celebration of a loved one.
- 2) United Way programs - you can identify MLPD as your charity of choice through your United Way contribution.
- 3) A bequeath – you can designate MLPD as a benefactor in your Will or Insurance Policy.
- 4) All Charities Campaign – Available to all Employees of the Province of Manitoba and its affiliates. Please request that your donation or a portion thereof, be directed to the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities Inc.
- 5) Designate funds to MLPD from a social or other fundraising event.

The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD) is a registered charity and tax receipts will be issued. We accept donations by cheque, or on the MLPD website.

You can also find us on CanadaHelps.

Charitable Business Registration No. 889197448RR0001

Money raised is used in Manitoba.

