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City of Winnipeg Council
510 Main St
Winnipeg, MB

April 25, 2023

Dear Council Members,

I am writing you today in support of Councillor Allard's Motion that the Administration look at increasing the number of accessible housing units by prioritizing any building permits that meet the CSA-B652 Standard for accessibility in dwellings.

The goal from Barrier Free Manitoba is that this will be an incentive to builders and developers to add to the housing stock in Winnipeg using the principles of universal design. The benefit to the city is that it is cost neutral and will be a steppingstone to a more accessible Winnipeg – with a large supply of accessible housing stock into the future.

Another standard, that could be looked at is CSA-B651, which is a universal design standard for common areas in public buildings. We all have a part in making Manitoba truly accessible. It starts by addressing all the areas including the Built Environment of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

Barrier-Free Manitoba (BFM), a non-partisan, non-profit, cross-disability initiative, has a grassroots advocacy role, alongside persons disabled by barriers, to review the Government of Manitoba's work related to the Accessibility of Manitobans Act (AMA).

Sincerely

David Kron
Barrier Free Manitoba