

Accessibility Standards Advisory Board

February 3, 2025, Meeting Summary Report

Attendance: Jeffrey Normore (Chair), Juanita Ford, Joshua Menchions, Les Gilhome, Trisha Rose, Kathleen Parewick, Allison Noseworthy, Terri Jean Murray (DPO), Karen Davis (DPO), Kate Dawe (DPO), Rhiannon MacDonald (DPO)

Regrets: Camille Rose

Guest Speakers: Prof Jutta Treviranus (Accessibility Standards Canada (ASC)); Dino Zuppa, CEO (ASC)

Introduction:

The Board Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Documents that were provided for review in advance of the meeting were approved.

DPO Updates:

- The Board Terms of Reference has been updated and posted to the DPO Webpage.
- Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Standard Development Committee Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference are drafted and ready for the Board to review.
- Letter from the Board regarding next potential standards for development is being reviewed by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Accessible Customer Service Standard Development Committee:

The Accessible Customer Service Standard Development Committee (Committee) has met twice since their appointment in January 2025. The Committee lead provided an update to the Board:

- The Committee's Terms of Reference has been updated with Committee's feedback. The Committee's consensus is that they will meet on a monthly or bi-weekly basis based on work requirements during that period.
- Committee's workplan is being developed with timelines for the Board's review. The work plan will be drafted for review at the March 3, 2025, Board Meeting.

Committee Terms of Reference

Board reviewed and accepted changes made to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Accessibility Standards Advisory Board

February 3, 2025, Meeting Summary Report

ASC Service Delivery Standard

Board discussed ASC standard development process and raised a need for clarification on the timeline and process. Clarification is required to determine the order in which standards and technical guidelines are developed and the entity responsible for the development of the technical guide. It was also noted that the ASC standards are not mandatory because they function as best practices and differ from the provincial standards. When the provincial standards are developed and implemented, they will be regulated.

Accessible and Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Presentation

Accessibility Standards Canada representatives presented an overview of AI, the rapid progress of AI and the harm it can cause for persons with disabilities. ASC are currently developing an AI standard which aligns with the European Union AI Act (EUAIA). The presentation emphasized the importance of being proactive with AI on a provincial level.

There was discussion pertaining to the barriers and potential safeguards to prevent AI statistical discrimination, biases and harm; and how AI could be referenced in many other provincial standards including Accessible Customer Service and ICT. Provincial standards could potentially reference AI standards from ASC and EUAIA.

Action Items:

1. DPO will support the Committee to develop their workplan to be submitted to the Board for approval.
2. DPO will provide a provincial legislative and jurisdictional reference list for Accessible Customer Service standard to the Committee.
3. Review of ICT Committee documents is deferred to the next Board meeting.
4. DPO to follow up with ASC and other provinces on the drafting process for standards and technical guides and provide a summary to the Board.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2025 (in person).