

## MPower: Manitoba's Accessibility Challenge

### General Guidelines – 2021/2022 School Year

MPower Manitoba's Accessibility Challenge is a project that encourages students in Manitoba to share their voice and vision of accessibility for our schools and communities today and for years to come. The objectives of the project are to:

- MPower students to learn about and spread awareness of accessibility, the right to it and benefits of it for everyone.
- MPower students to develop innovative ideas, programs, concepts, and designs that create solutions to accessibility barriers.

### Eligibility

Eligible students must be:

- Enrolled in and attending a school in the Province of Manitoba;
- Enrolled in Grade 1 through Senior 4/Grade 12.

### Conditions/Restrictions

- Students may work independently or as part of a school team;
- The student or student team must be endorsed by a member of the school faculty or administration (School Representative);
- School Representatives will be required to provide their name and contact information, confirm that the project is being endorsed by the school and act as the point of contact for the project;
- There is no limit to the number of submissions from a school, however only one student or student team per school will advance as a finalist.

### Project Topics

Projects that demonstrate knowledge and understanding of accessibility, the right to it, identifies types of accessibility or barriers and how it applies to full access.

Projects that include innovative ideas to reduce or eliminate barriers experienced by people with disabilities in the areas of: attitudinal barriers, informational and communication barriers, technological barriers, systemic barriers and/or physical and architectural barriers will be accepted.

**Physical and architectural barriers** are physical obstacles that make it difficult for some to easily access a place. Example: a door knob that cannot be turned by a person with limited mobility or strength, or a hallway or door that is too narrow to allow a person who uses a wheelchair to pass through safely.

**Attitudinal barriers** result when people think and act based on false assumptions. Example: cashier talks to an individual's support person because she or he assumes the individual with a disability will not understand.

**Informational and communication barriers** are created when information is offered in a form that suits some, but not all, of the population. Example: print that is too small for some people to read and public address systems that alert only people who can hear the message.

**Technological barriers** occur when technology, or the way it is used, cannot be accessed by people with disabilities. Example: Websites that are not accessible to people who are blind and use screen reader software.

**Systemic barriers** are policies, practices or procedures that result in some people receiving unequal access or being excluded. Example: eligibility criteria that effectively exclude people based on a disability, such as requiring a job applicant to have a driver's license even though there are ways to reorganize a job to use another form of transportation.

## Entry Process

**All entries must be submitted by email to [mpower@manitobapossible.ca](mailto:mpower@manitobapossible.ca) by Friday May 13, 2022 at 4:00 pm (CST).**

Entries need to include:

A: Entry Form: The entry form or entry email must include contact information and provide a brief description of the project.

B: Supporting Material: Students must add supporting materials such as drawing, diorama, essay, power point, video, model, etc. Supporting material may be uploaded using dropbox or GoogleDocs if they are large files.

The entry form can be viewed and downloaded at [www.mpowerchallenge.ca](http://www.mpowerchallenge.ca)

For ideas visit MPower's social media accounts: o Facebook:

- <https://www.facebook.com/MPowerChallenge/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mpowerchallenge/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mpowerchallenge>

## **Selection Process**

Winning projects will be selected by a panel of members made up of accessibility/disability experts. Once complete, the panel's decision is irrevocable.

### Evaluation Criteria

Panel members will judge projects in 4 main areas:

1. Knowledge of Accessibility
2. Innovation
3. Project Organization
4. Originality and Creativity

Further evaluation criteria can be found at [www.mpowerchallenge.ca](http://www.mpowerchallenge.ca)

## **Results**

Project applicants will be informed of results by email.

## **Prizes**

All projects that are submitted by the May 13, 2022 deadline will be entered to win one of ten (10) \$250 participant prizes to be used towards accessibility improvements or products for their school.

Five projects will be awarded \$2000 each to be used towards accessibility improvements or products for their school.

Accessibility improvements or products must be approved by Manitoba Possible. Once approved and purchased by the school, Manitoba Possible will reimburse the school in the amount up to, but not exceeding, the prize amount. Alternatively, Manitoba Possible may reimburse the vendor directly.

Prizes are non-transferable, non-refundable, have no cash value and must be accepted as awarded. Receipts must be provided to Manitoba Possible for all cash prizes.

## **Personal Information**

You consent to Manitoba Possible using and disclosing your personal information for the purposes of administering the contest; advertising the contest and any future contests and any of Manitoba Possible's services; and for the other purposes described in these rules.

## **Publicity**

Except where otherwise prohibited by law, participation in the contest constitutes giving consent to Manitoba Possible to use of the participants' first and last names, hometowns and schools for promotional purposes without further notification, permission, payment or consideration.

## **Administrator**

Manitoba Possible administers the MPower student competition, a program funded by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnership Program. Manitoba Possible envisions an inclusive and accessible society and works together to remove barriers to full and equal participation. For additional information, please visit [www.manitobapossible.ca](http://www.manitobapossible.ca).

## **Cancellation**

If for any reason Manitoba Possible cannot run the contest as planned (including as a result of bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, infection by computer virus or any other cause that corrupts, impairs or affects the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of this contest), Manitoba Possible may cancel, modify, extend or suspend the contest. In that event, Manitoba Possible may award the winning prizes at random from among the eligible entries received up to the time of the impairment or award no prizes.

Manitoba Possible may also disqualify any student or student team who tampers with or in any way corrupts the entry or selection process, or who attempts to undermine the legitimate operation of the contest by cheating, hacking, deception, or other unfair practices, or by attempting to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other entrants or Manitoba Possible representatives.

## **Disclaimers, Liability, and Indemnification**

Manitoba Possible does not accept liability for any loss or damage of any materials entered in the contest or for any other loss or damage resulting directly or indirectly from your participation in the contest. Manitoba Possible is not responsible for: (1) incorrect or inaccurate transcription of entry information or late, lost, incomplete, misdirected entries, or entries received through impermissible or illegitimate channels; (2) technical failures of any kind, including without limitation the malfunctioning of any telephone, computer, network, hardware or software; (3) the unavailability or inaccessibility of any service; (4) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the contest; (5) electronic or human error which may occur in the administration of the contest or the processing of submissions; or (6) any injury or damage to persons or property, including without limitation a computer, which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from participation in the contest or from downloading any material from MPower's website.

Manitoba Possible will not be liable for any indirect, special, consequential, or punitive damages in connection with the contest or these rules.

By participating in this contest, the student and school further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Manitoba Possible and its employees, directors, officers, members, affiliates, agents, judges and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions or losses of any kind (including actual legal fees and expenses) arising from or related to: (a) failure to comply with any of these rules; (b) any misrepresentation made under these rules or otherwise to Manitoba Possible; or (c) participation in the contest.



**Law**

The Rules will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Manitoba, and the federal laws of Canada applicable in the province.

**Contact Us**

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c/o Manitoba Possible

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**This document is available in alternate formats, upon request.**