

# WORDS with DIGNITY

Language is powerful

Use respectful terms when referencing persons with disabilities.

USE...	INSTEAD OF...
people	those people you people
person with a disability	the disabled the handicapped special deformed
person with diabetes, arthritis, etc.	afflicted with... suffers from...
person with mental illness person with mental health issues	mentally ill insane crazy
person who is Deaf person who is hearing impaired	the deaf the hearing impaired
person with an intellectual disability	developmentally delayed mentally retarded mentally challenged
person who is blind person who is visually impaired	the blind

USE...	INSTEAD OF...
person with a learning disability	the learning disabled
person with a mobility disability person with a spinal cord injury person with polio	physically challenged crippled lame
person who uses a wheelchair	confined to a wheelchair
accessible parking accessible washrooms	handicapped/ disabled parking handicapped/ disabled washrooms
person without a disability	normal

**If in doubt, ask.**

For more information on the Manitoba Policy on Access to Government (MPAG), contact:

**Disabilities Issues Office**

630 - 240 Graham Avenue

Winnipeg MB R3C 0J7

Phone: 204-945-7613

TTY: 204-948-2901

Fax: 204-948-2896

Website: [manitoba.ca/dio/access](http://manitoba.ca/dio/access)

E-mail: [dio@gov.mb.ca](mailto:dio@gov.mb.ca)

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**ISSUES**  
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