

# 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 hearing impaired	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	physically challenged
person with a spinal cord injury	crippled
person with polio	lame
person who uses a wheelchair	confined to a wheelchair
accessible parking	handicapped/ disabled parking
accessible washrooms	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**

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**ISSUES**  
**OFFICE**

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 alternate formats,  
 upon request.