

Aboriginal Representation on Agencies and Corporations

Date:	May 29, 2012
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report is to outline an approach to identify the barriers to civic participation for Aboriginal Peoples and to find ways to increase the representation of Aboriginal Peoples on the City of Toronto's Agencies and Corporations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

A strategy be developed by the City Manager's Office that includes but is not limited to the following actions:

1. Meet with the Aboriginal Affairs Committee to determine the barriers preventing applications from the Aboriginal community and strategies to improve Aboriginal applications and representation, including identifying Agencies and Corporations where an Aboriginal perspective would be beneficial or of interest to the Aboriginal community; and
2. Host two community focus groups with the Aboriginal community to identify the barriers preventing applications to the Agencies and Corporations; and
3. Host an information session on the City's Agencies and Corporations for the Aboriginal community; and

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4. Make relevant changes that improve communications, provide for a targeted outreach to increase the Aboriginal applicant pool to Agencies and Corporations, based on the results of discussions with the Aboriginal Affairs Committee, the Aboriginal community, and the Agencies and Corporations; and
5. Aboriginal representation on the City of Toronto's Agencies and Corporations be reviewed and highlighted in the City Manager's Office's annual Equity, Diversity and Human Rights report.

Financial Impact

Funding for meetings with the Aboriginal Affairs Committee, hosting community focus groups and hosting information sessions will be accommodated within the 2012 Approved Operating Budget for the City Manager's Office.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Equity Impact Statement

Identifying and removing any barriers and providing changes to the Public Appointments Policy and/or program will provide the Aboriginal communities with accessible, equitable and barrier - free access to Agencies and Corporations.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on March 19, 2012, the Executive Committee received a letter from Councillor Layton as it related to the Statement of Commitment to the Aboriginal Communities of Toronto and identified the low representation of Aboriginal Peoples on the City's Agencies and Corporations.

This item was referred by Executive Committee to the City Manager's Office.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX18.11>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In the 2011 process for appointments to Agencies and Corporations Aboriginal peoples represented 0.8% of all applicants.

(Attachment 1)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-44920.pdf>

COMMENTS

The Aboriginal Affairs Committee at its meeting of November 21, 2011 had a presentation from the Governance Structure & Corporate Performance unit. During that presentation it was indicated that not only was there no representation of Aboriginal Peoples on any of the City of Toronto's Agencies and Corporations but there were very few Aboriginal applicants to the process. The Committee discussed taking some action to address this issue as the Statement of Commitment to the Aboriginal Communities of Toronto very clearly states one of the commitments as being "*the City also commits to engaging Aboriginal communities in the City's decision making process, to removing barriers to civic participation and to increasing the representation and role of Aboriginal*

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people on municipal boards and committees"

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-30866.pdf>

As a result, a strategy will be developed with the Aboriginal Affairs Committee that increases Aboriginal representation on the City of Toronto's Agencies and Corporations.

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SIGNATURE

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