

Disability Issues Committee Terms of Reference

A. Purpose

1. The Disability Issues Committee is required under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* is a provincial law that enables the government to develop, implement and enforce standards of accessibility by removing barriers in key areas with a goal of Ontario being accessible by 2025.
2. The mandate of the Disability Issues Committee is to:
 - Provide advice to City Council on the elimination of barriers faced by persons with disabilities including barriers related to City by-laws, policies and programs and service delivery;
 - Provide advice to City Council about the implementation of accessibility standards required under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*;
 - Act as a liaison with external bodies on barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities in public life; and
 - Advance the achievement of social, cultural, and economic well-being of persons with disabilities.
3. The Disability Issues Committee is a Council Advisory Body. It may not direct City staff or make binding decisions on the Toronto government. Any advice or recommendations that require formal action or implementation by City of Toronto staff must be considered and approved by City Council.

B. Membership and Term

4. The Committee will be composed of twelve (12) members of the public and up to three (3) members of City Council.
5. A majority of the members of the Committee will be persons with disabilities, as defined by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and should reflect the diversity of Toronto's population.
6. Members are appointed by City Council on recommendation of the Civic Appointments Committee for members of the public and Striking Committee for members of City Council.

Approved by City Council at its meeting held February 10 and 11, 2015

7. The Chair will be a Member of City Council, appointed by City Council and, at its first meeting or as soon as possible after, the Committee will elect two Vice-Chairs.
8. Citizen members are appointed for a four-year term, coinciding with the term of City Council and until their successors are appointed.
9. The Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Division will canvass and recruit Members through nomination by external interest groups, invitation of individual experts, and election by membership-based organizations in accordance with the Public Appointments Policy.
10. Membership is voluntary and a public service. Members will not be remunerated or receive an honorarium. Expenses may be reimbursed pursuant to the Remuneration Policy.

C. Governance

1. The Disability Issues Committee will provide its advice to City Council through the Executive Committee and annually report to the Executive Committee on its progress including key achievements, challenges and activities.
2. The Committee will operate in accordance with Council's Simplified Procedures for Advisory Bodies.
3. All meetings of the Disability Issues Committee will be open to the public and comply with the Open Meeting Requirements of the City of Toronto Act, 2006.
4. The Committee will meet six times a year.
5. The Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Division will provide policy-related support and strategic advice to the Disability Issues Committee.
6. The City Clerk's Office will provide meeting management support to the Committee.