

Disability Issues Committee – Terms of Reference

A. Mandate:

The Disability Issues Committee will provide its advice to City Council on the elimination of barriers faced by people with disabilities and act as a liaison with external bodies on barriers to participation in public life and to the achievement of social, cultural and economic well-being of people with disabilities.

The Disability Issues Committee will also provide advice City Council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards and the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of accessibility reports as required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

To this end, the Disability Issues Committee will:

- i) Consult with people with disabilities;
- ii) Provide advice to City Council on the identification and prevention of barriers to people with disabilities in the City's by-laws, policies, programs and delivery of goods and services; and,
- iii) Provide advice on accessibility for persons with disabilities to City buildings, structures or premises.

B. Standing Committee Alignment:

The Disability Issues Committee will provide its advice to Council through the Executive Committee.

C. Membership:

1. The Disability Issues Committee will be composed of 12 members appointed by the City Manager, in consultation with the Chair, and up to 3 Members of Council appointed by City Council.
2. The majority of the representatives will be people with disabilities, as defined by the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, and should reflect the diversity of Toronto's population. Members of the Disability Issues Committee should not be employees of the City of Toronto.
3. The Members of Council (except for the Mayor who is a member ex-officio of all Council Committees) will be appointed by City Council on the recommendation of the Striking Committee.
4. The Chair of the Disability Issues Committee will be a Member of Council

appointed by City Council on the recommendation of the Striking Committee, and, at its first meeting or as soon as possible after, the Committee will elect two (2) Co-Chairs.

D. Term of Office:

1. Membership is for the 2010 - 2014 term of Council.

E. Role and Procedures:

1. The Disability Issues Committee is an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council.
2. The Disability Issues Committee is not a decision-making body.
3. The Disability Issues Committee will provide its advice through the Chair to the Executive Committee.
4. Any advice or recommendations that require action or implementation by staff must be considered by the appropriate Standing Committee and approved by City Council.
5. Without limiting the range of issues on which to advise the Mayor and Council, the Disability Issues Committee will:
 - advise on strategies and actions required to achieve the City's access, equity and human rights objectives;
 - advise on the implementation of Council's policies regarding access, equity and human rights policies and plans, including the Plan of Action for the elimination of racism and discrimination;
 - liaise with other Council-appointed Advisory Committees, as required;
 - seek input from community organizations in the provision of advice to the Mayor and Council.
6. The Disability Issues Committee will advise the Mayor and Council on the actions of other orders of government.
7. The Disability Issues Committee will meet at the call of the Chair.
8. Quorum of the Disability Issues Committee shall be 50 per cent of the members appointed by the City Manager. The Mayor, and Committee Members appointed by City Council, if present at a committee meeting, will count in assessing whether a quorum is present, and have all the rights and privileges of the other members.

9. All meetings of the Disability Issues Committee will be open to the public.
10. Diversity Management and Community Engagement, Strategic and Corporate Policy Division, City Manager's Office will provide policy-related staff support to the Disability Issues Committee.
11. The City Clerk's Office will provide meeting organization and administrative support and will provide the Chair with transmittal documentation, as appropriate, for the Chair to forward advice and recommendations of the Disability Issues Committee to the appropriate Standing Committee.
12. The City Clerk will not provide support to any sub-committees or working groups of the Disability Issues Committee.
13. Membership on the Committee is voluntary and a public service.