

Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Committee Terms of Reference

A. Purpose

1. The City of Toronto recognizes and respects the unique status and cultural diversity among the Aboriginal communities of Toronto.
2. The City of Toronto continues its commitment to supporting the Aboriginal right to self-determination by working inclusively with Aboriginal communities in Toronto to achieve equitable outcomes for Aboriginal peoples within their communities and in their day- to-day lives.
3. The mandate of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee is to:
 - Provide advice to City Council on the elimination of barriers faced by Aboriginal peoples including barriers related to City by-laws, policies, programs and service delivery;
 - Act as a liaison with external bodies on barriers to the participation of Aboriginal peoples in public life; and
 - Advance the achievement of social, cultural, economic and spiritual well-being of Aboriginal peoples.
4. The Aboriginal Affairs 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

1. The Committee will be composed of up to twenty-five (25) members with a minimum of one (1) member of City Council. The members will be representatives of Aboriginal organizations.
2. Members are appointed by City Council on recommendation of the Civic Appointments Committee for representatives of Aboriginal organizations and Striking Committee for members of City Council.
3. 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.

4. Citizen members are appointed for a four-year term, coinciding with the term of City Council and Council Member is appointed for a two-year term. The Committee will meet until the completion of its mandate or the end of the current Council term whichever comes first.
5. The Equity, Diversity and Human Rights division will canvass and recruit Members through nomination by external interest group, invitation of individual experts, and election by membership-based organizations in accordance with the Public Appointments Policy.
6. Membership is voluntary and a public service. Members will not be remunerated or receive an honorarium. Expenses may be reimbursed pursuant to the Toronto Remuneration Policy.

C. Governance

1. The Aboriginal Affairs Committee will provide its advice to City Council through the Executive Committee and report annually 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 Aboriginal Affairs 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 three (3) to four (4) times per year at the call of the Chair.
5. The Equity, Diversity and Human Rights division will provide policy-related staff support and strategic advice to the Aboriginal Affairs Committee.
6. The City Clerk's Office will provide meeting management support to the Committee.