

EX20.30



Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

DI12.3	ACTION	Amended		Ward:All
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Accessible Communication at Meetings

Committee Decision

The Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee recommends to the Executive Committee that:

1. City Council direct that the City increase the accessibility of public processes, consultations and committee meetings by including communities, using accessible, alternative and visual languages, including audio description, as a way to communicate and that such meetings progress to universal design for all people in the City of Toronto.
2. City Council direct the City Manager to report to the Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee every six months on the progress the City has made with respect to the universal design for all meetings and the establishment of accessibility minimum standards for participation in meetings.

Origin

(October 13, 2016) Letter from Terri-Lynn Langdon, Member, Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Summary

After attending a meeting at the Toronto and East York Community Council in September, I wanted to find a way to implement more accessibility in the political process for people with disabilities, specifically people living with speech/language difficulties and who use Augmentative communication and Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

All public consultations and meetings open to the public should include sufficient time (often extra time) for people using alternative communication/visual language in their deputation process. So far, what I have seen is that people that need extra time to communicate are given that extra time – which is awesome – but I would like to make that more transparent and in written form when it comes to public processes and consultations. It should be well known that for all public processes and consultations, the participation of people using alternative communication is encouraged and will be accommodated.

Background Information

(October 13, 2016) Letter from Terri-Lynn Langdon on Accessible Communication at Meetings

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/di/bgrd/backgroundfile-97543.pdf>