

Aboriginal Affairs Advisory 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 Advisory Committee is to provide advice to City Council on:
 - a) The elimination of barriers faced by Aboriginal peoples including barriers related to City by-laws, policies, programs and service delivery;
 - b) Act as a liaison with external bodies on barriers to the participation of Aboriginal peoples in public life; and
 - c) Advancing the achievement of social, cultural, economic and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.
4. The Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee is a Council Advisory Body. It may not direct City staff or make binding decisions on Toronto City Council or the City of Toronto. Any advisory body recommendation that requires action by City officials or City Council must first be considered by the appropriate Council Committee and, when necessary, approved by City Council.

B. Composition and Term

1. The Advisory Committee is composed of 25 members with one Member of City Council. With the exception of the Member of City Council, Aboriginal Advisory Committee members are 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 the Member of City Council.
3. The Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee will elect two Co-Chairs at its first meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.

4. Public members are appointed for a four-year term, coinciding with the term of City Council and the Council Member is appointed for a two-year term. The Advisory Committee will meet until the completion of its mandate or the end of the current City Council term, whichever comes first.
5. The Indigenous Affairs Office will canvass and recruit members 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 Advisory Committee will provide its advice to City Council through the Executive Committee or other appropriate Council Committee.
2. The Advisory Committee will operate in accordance with City Council's Simplified Procedures for Advisory Bodies.
3. All meetings of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee will be open to the public and comply with the Open Meeting Requirements of the City of Toronto Act, 2006.
4. The Advisory Committee will hold up to four meetings per year at the call of the Chair or Co-Chairs.
5. The Indigenous Affairs Office will provide policy-related staff support and strategic advice to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee.
6. The City Clerk's Office will provide meeting management support to the Advisory Committee.