

Chair's Report Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

November 1, 2019; 9:30am
Committee Room 1

Chair's Report

- **Dixon Hall Bus Launch**
 - On September 12, 2019 I brought greetings to the launch of a new bus at Dixon Hall. The bus is an important addition to Dixon Hall's Seniors Department, which strives to enable seniors in the downtown east of Toronto to remain in their homes, living safely and independently for as long as possible.
 - The bus makes 12 round trips per week, collecting 75 participants in the seniors' day programs. It also is used 7 days per week to deliver 9400 nutritious meals annually through the Meals on Wheels program, impacting 440 participants. At least 8 additional trips are made weekly to pick up and drop off more than 1300 corporate volunteers who support senior services.
- **Budgeting for Accessibility**
 - At the October 2 - 3, 2019 session, City Council directed staff to report on the feasibility of exempting all costs related to the City complying with, and undertaking initiatives connected with, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act from any efficiency savings guidelines that are set out for the City's 2020 budget process. This report originated from the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee and sets out to determine the feasibility of establishing a centralized budget/fund for all accessibility-related accommodations and initiatives.
- **Protecting Local Health-Care Services**
 - At the October 2 - 3, 2019 session, City Council supported my motion calling on the Ontario government to "halt the closures of, mergers of, and cuts to" Toronto's local health care services, including public health units, land ambulance services, hospitals and long-term care homes. Cities and towns across Ontario are adopting similar motions to protect their local health-care services.
- **Diversity in the Toronto Public Service**
 - At the October 2 -3 session, City Council endorsed a Workforce Equity and Inclusion Plan designed to foster diversity in the makeup of the Toronto Public Service. Specifically, the plan aims to accelerate progress toward the City's goal of having a public service whose diversity reflects that of Toronto's population. Council also requested a report on strategies for achieving better diversity in Council-appointed staff positions

Flag Raisings and Proclamations

- **Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month**
 - The City of Toronto proclaimed October to be Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month. This month raises awareness about dwarfism, increases public knowledge and diminishes stereotypes and misconceptions. There are over 250 different types of dwarfism, each affecting bone growth and having their own set of physical and social challenges. Approximately one in 10,000 people are born with dwarfism.
- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month. October, 2019.**
 - The City of Toronto proclaimed October to be National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The City recognizes the positive and valuable contributions that those with disabilities have made to the workplace and is committed to promoting fundamental human rights and enhancing the quality of life for those who are at risk of experiencing discrimination. An inclusive Toronto is one where all Torontonians can participate and have an equal opportunity to succeed in their workplaces and communities.
- **Occupational Therapy Month. October, 2019.**
 - The City of Toronto proclaimed October as Occupational Therapy Month. Occupational therapists help improve the health and well-being of their patients by solving problems that interfere with a person's ability to take part in everyday activities such as self-care, being productive or doing leisure activities. Under the guidance of occupational therapists, people can assume, resume, and/or maintain the roles and skills they need to participate in daily living and be able to enjoy their life.