



Toronto Youth Cabinet
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Dear Members of the Special Committee on Governance,

The reform to the size of Council has provided the City of Toronto with an important opportunity to rethink how decisions are made and how key issues and portfolios are delegated. It has also provided the City with a chance to open up new ways of engaging people in these critical decisions who may not have under the former system. The Special Committee on Governance is a significant platform to enhance civic engagement at the municipal level. The Special Committee should take advantage of this unique opportunity and extend the mandate to ensure adequate consultation.

We believe that additional consultation is necessary, especially with young Torontonians, on how the City's governance will adapt under the new Council structure.

The update on public engagement activities suggests that there has not been enough engagement with youth on this issue. Youth are affected just as much as any other group or demographic in the City by decisions that are made at City Hall. It is important that our concerns for the future of governance in the city are heard and addressed.

Irrespective of the challenges and barriers youth face in being able to engage in municipal decision-making, we believe that more needs to be done to consult with youth who face the most barriers to the institution that is City Hall. Improvements to the City's governance structure were needed to reach a wider array of young people, and this is an optimal time to determine how best to make City Hall as accessible as possible.

The Toronto Youth Cabinet supports extending the mandate of the Special Committee on Governance to provide time for further consultation and to allow the committee additional time to recommend governance changes.

Sincerely,

Eli Aaron
Budget Lead
The Toronto Youth Cabinet

Michael Manu
Executive Director
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Created by City Council in 1998, the Toronto Youth Cabinet is a youth-led advocacy organization and the official youth advisory body of the City of Toronto. Through outreach, engagement and training, the TYC provides a critical gathering place for diverse young people interested in making change within a municipal governance context.