

June 30, 2020

Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
City Hall, Committee Room 1
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Economic Advancement Opportunities for Persons Living with Disability

Striving to obtain, and sustain meaningful employment is a barrier regularly faced by people living with disabilities. A supportive and ongoing employment program is essential for the vitality and longevity of persons with disabilities who are seeking to access employment and training opportunities for their daily living goals and achievements as citizens within our society. An exploration into the feasibility of a partnership with the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto to allocate a socio-economic development strategy for persons with disabilities in relation to job creation and advancement opportunities would greatly impact the success of these individuals. Obtaining meaningful transformations of inclusion, diversity and accessibility to employment opportunities for persons with disabilities through funded support and interventions can bridge the gaps and challenges that persons with disabilities face every day. As advocates of social change and equity, funding job creation and avenues of mentoring, internships, skills training, skills development, and practice, we can help to lift the weight of being in a state of “not enough” for persons with disabilities living below the poverty line.

Recommendations:

1. City Council direct the City Manager in partnership with Economic Development, and Employment and Social Services examine the City of Toronto's role in and provide a report on opportunities to support the economic advancement for persons living with disabilities. Including but not limited to:
 - a. Support services and vendors relevant to the safety, success, and well-being of persons with disabilities for employment provisions which have been researched, and reviewed.
 - b. Internal employment opportunities to help foster inclusion, diversity and accessibility for persons with disabilities by providing internal job vacancies with the City of Toronto.
2. City Council request the Province of Ontario examine partnership opportunities for economic advancement of persons living with disabilities including mentoring, internships and skills training as well as job creation.

Submitted by Miranda Fray