

Chair's Report Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee February 10, 2021

- **The Passing of Michael Miceli**

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Michael Miceli on December 22, 2020. For the past two and a half years, Michael has been a dedicated member of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee. He will be remembered for his unwavering contribution and support of the municipality in removing system barriers to accessibility. Michael's passion, thoroughness, and dedication will be fondly remembered alongside his kindness and open-hearted nature.

- **Recruitment of New Committee Members Underway**

Since early January 2021, recruitment of new committee members is underway through the Accessibility Unit. I look forward to working alongside our new members as we continue to advocate for equitable access and support the City of Toronto in removing barriers to accessibility.

- **yongeTOmorrow Initiative and Accessibility**

On November 20, 2020, the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee received a report on the yongeTOmorrow Initiative and communicated to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council its support for recommended design concept 4C of the yongeTOmorrow Environmental Assessment to create a safer and more accessible Yonge Street for people living with disabilities.

- **Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy Update**

On November 20, 2020, the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee received a presentation from Wayne Chu, Manager, Poverty Reduction Strategy Office, Social Development, Finance and Administration on poverty reduction strategic action plan activities. The presentation reviewed initiatives to ensure that the specific experiences and barriers that persons with disabilities face, particularly within the context of the City's COVID 19 recovery and rebuild efforts, are considered.

- **TO Supports: COVID-19 Equity Action Plan**

On December 16, 2020, City Council adopted without amendments TO Supports: COVID-19 Equity Action Plan and the 25 equity actions and targeted and enhanced equity measures that the City of Toronto, Toronto Public Health, and partners are taking to support Torontonians disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, from the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services.

- **Supporting People with Disabilities in Toronto During and Beyond COVID-19 - Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Programs**

On December 16, 2020, City Council adopted without amendments that the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat, in collaboration with the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, report to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee in the first quarter of 2021 on an intersectional

approach to support equity-seeking groups, including persons with disabilities experiencing homelessness, to access housing with appropriate supports.

- **COVID-19 Response and Accessibility - Parks, Forestry and Recreation Programs**

On December 16, 2020, City Council adopted the direction to update the City of Toronto's website to include all City recreation programs operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating which programs are accessible, and communicate changes through all appropriate City channels with a report back to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee in the first quarter of 2021. This item was adopted without amendments.

- **Remote Participation in Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee Meetings**

On December 16, 2020, City Council adopted to amend the Simplified Procedures for Advisory Bodies to permit remote electronic participation in perpetuity. Additionally, requested the Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the City Clerk, to explore options for improving accessibility for all participants in remote meetings of Council and Committees, such as captioning, and to report back to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee by the second quarter of 2021.

- **Equity Responsive Budgeting at the City of Toronto**

On December 16, 2020, City Council adopted the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, in collaboration with the Chief People Officer, report to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee identifying how the City's Equity Responsive Budgeting initiative will align with the City's Data for Equity Strategy and support the use of sociodemographic data in the development of the Operating Budget, in the fourth quarter of 2021. On November 20, 2020, the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee sent a letter in support of this work.

- **Clearing the Path towards a Safe and Accessible Winter**

On January 12, 2021, the Toronto East York Community Council adopted that the General Manager, Transportation Services, prepare a budget briefing note to the Budget Committee assessing the cost of providing harmonized snow clearing for the entire City of Toronto for the 2021/2022 winter season for consideration during the 2021 budget process, including an equity lens. Additionally, Councillor Wong-Tam amended the recommendation to include staff re-consider the pilot project and trial area of snow clearing for 2021 to include Ward 13, Ward 10 and any other downtown neighbourhoods not included, and to report back to the committee in spring 2021 on the operational and financial considerations that would be required to expand mechanical and manual plowing on sidewalks, multi-use trails and park pathways to meet the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act on a permanent basis in the future.