

**Chair's Report
Submitted by Councillor Wong-Tam to the
Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
November 15, 2021**

- **October 10: World Mental Health Day**

World Mental Health Day raises awareness of mental health issues and provides the opportunity to talk about mental health and resources available to support those who need mental health care.

Anyone can struggle with their mental health and the pandemic has brought this into sharp focus with many people experiencing heightened feelings of anxiety, depression, isolation or stress. It has also shown the need for improved mental health supports and services.

It is important to openly talk about mental health, which will help eliminate the stigma associated with mental health issues, ensuring that we are all collectively supporting one another in a safe and empathetic environment.

- **Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month**

This month is Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month and is dedicated to raising awareness, and increasing public knowledge about dwarfism.

There are over 400 different types of dwarfism, each with its own set of physical, psychological, and social challenges. Many barriers and obstacles are faced by individuals with dwarfism in addition to the medical complications of dwarfism.

This awareness month is an opportunity to learn about challenges faced by those born with dwarfism and a call to action to create positive awareness and change negative misconceptions.

- **Dyslexia Awareness Month**

Dyslexia is a learning disability, making it difficult for people to learn to read, write and spell. Ten to 15% of Canadians live with dyslexia, a neurological condition.

Children and adults with dyslexia need support to be successful in school and in life. Once the condition has been identified, it can be managed with proper support.

- **Update on COVID-19 Vaccination**

On October 1, 2021, City Council adopted the Update on COVID-19 Vaccination which requested the Province of Ontario consult with people living with disabilities, support persons, and other equity deserving groups on any mandatory vaccination policy or program that takes

into consideration legislated or regulatory exemptions or a Human Rights Code related accommodation request for exemption. Additionally, it directs Recreation staff to make available any public printers at community or recreation centres at no cost to residents as well as requested Toronto Public Libraries offer that same service to facilitate residents printing their proof of vaccine. Lastly, City Council wrote a letter requesting the Province of Ontario expand the accessibility of the Ontario Vaccine booking portal directly and to make it possible for disabled Ontarians to be able to book the accommodations they need to be vaccinated.

- **Establishing COVID-19 Pop-up and Mobile Immunization Clinic Sites**

On October 1, 2021, City Council authorized the Medical Officer of Health approve new or extend existing agreements to establish pop-up or mobile COVID-19 immunization clinic locations.

- **COVID-19 Recovery Update**

On October 26, 2021, the Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Manager, to consult with communities disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and to report back in 2022 with an update on the status of implementing the recommendations from the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild that pertain to public health and the social determinants of health.

- **Protecting Vulnerable Persons and Reducing Homelessness**

On October 1, City Council adopted Protecting Vulnerable Persons and Reducing Homelessness, first adopted at the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee in September. This motion requests Toronto Police Services review any policies to better support people living with disabilities in tenant-landlord disputes including educational opportunities for officers. Additionally, Shelter, Support, and Housing Administration along with Social Development and Finance Administration will be presenting to the TAAC by the second quarter of 2022 on all City-led initiatives aligned with this work.

- **Update on the Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines**

On October 20, 2021, General Government and Licensing Committee adopted an update on the Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines and directed all City divisions to use the Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines as the mandatory accessibility resource that guides all City-owned renovations and newly constructed buildings and public spaces.