

Filling Vacancies in Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee Membership

Date: June 17, 2021
To: Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee
From: Director, Indigenous Affairs Office
Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the discussions of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee at its previous meetings on filling vacancies of Committee membership and recommends a path toward filling the existing vacancies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Indigenous Affairs Office recommends that the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee recommend to the Executive Committee that:

1. City Council amend the Terms of Reference of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee to provide that two of the twenty-five members are to be members of the community at large, so that Section B.1. and 2. of the Terms of Reference read as follows:

B. Composition and Term

1. The Advisory Committee is composed of 25 members with one Member of City Council. With the exception of the Member of City Council, 22 Aboriginal Advisory Committee members are representatives of Aboriginal organizations, and 2 are members of the community at large.

2. Members are appointed by City Council on recommendation of the Civic Appointments Committee for public members and Striking Committee for the Member of City Council.

2. City Council request the Director, Indigenous Affairs Office, to recruit members in order to fill all existing vacancies on the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee as soon as practicable.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

On April 16, 2021, the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee considered Item [AA10.2](#), Filling Vacancies in Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee Membership - Update, and received it for information.

On February 10 2021, the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee considered Item [AA9.3](#), Filling Vacancies in Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee Membership, and received it for information.

COMMENTS

Currently, eight seats on the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee are vacant. Discussion of these vacancies at the February 10 and April 16, 2021 Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee meetings suggested that current membership may potentially be enhanced by including:

- Elders and Knowledge Keepers;
- Community members at large (those unaffiliated with organizations);
- Seniors;
- Youth; and
- The 2-Spirited community.

Sector/Issue specific representation might also a consideration for new members, with new members (either community members large or representatives of organizations) offering expertise in:

- environmental issues and land stewardship;
- business and innovation;
- the arts; and
- economic development.

Some of these sectors (e.g., – the arts) are represented by existing members. Additional voices may augment the representation of sectors already represented or add perspectives not yet included in the Committee. It should also be noted that new members could represent multiple sectors/backgrounds at once. For example, a youth may also represent the business sector.

A discussion at the April 16, 2021 Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee meeting provided direction to fill existing vacancies with a mixture of community members at large and organizational representatives.

It is recommended that 2-4 of these vacancies be filled by community members at large, to allow for a stronger balance between organizational voices and voices from the community.

The report recommends changing the Committee's composition to include 2 community members at large (suggested to allow for gender balance, as per traditional practices). This number is only a placeholder meant to generate discussion. It can be changed, should the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee decide another number is more appropriate.

The addition of community members at large will require approval from City Council. A report recommending the change could be presented to the Executive Committee on July 6. If Council approves the recommendation to amend the composition to allow members of the community at large at their meeting on July 14, the Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO) and Public Appointments could work towards bringing a report to the October 5 Civic Appointments Committee (CAC) meeting which would go forward to the November 9 City Council meeting.

If this timeline is met, new members would serve a one year term, until the 2022 municipal election.

Depending on the recommendation of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee regarding membership from the public at large, the remaining vacancies would be filled by organizational representatives. Suggestions from the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee pointing to potential organizations who could fill the sector/demographic gaps identified above would be beneficial.

Current and past members are listed in Appendix A, to aid in the discussion.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Current and Previous Members of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory
Committee