

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Council Advisory Body

Terms of Reference

A. Purpose

1. The City of Toronto recognizes that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) communities continue to face disproportionate and unique barriers when accessing and interacting with City programs and services. A dedicated mechanism is required to represent their interests and concerns and to inform the decision-making of City Council.
2. The City is committed to supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) inclusion by partnering with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) community and organizations as well as partners at various levels of government and other institutional partners to achieve equitable outcomes for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) residents.
3. The mandate of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Council Advisory Committee is to provide policy advice:
 - a) To ensure the interests and needs of the diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) communities are reflected in City programs and service delivery;
 - b) On strategies aimed at elimination of barriers faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) communities when accessing City programs and services; and
 - c) On emerging issues and trends of significance to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) communities as it relates to the City services and programs.
4. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Advisory Committee is a Council Advisory Body. It may not direct City staff or make binding decisions on Toronto City Council or the City of Toronto. Any advisory body recommendation that requires action by City officials or City Council must first be considered by the appropriate Council Committee and, when necessary, approved by City Council.

B. Composition and Term

1. The Advisory Committee is composed of 15 members with two Members of City Council. With the exception of the Members of City Council, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Advisory Committee

members is comprised of community and policy leaders with lived experience and/or expertise in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) issues and reflecting the diversity of the community.

2. Members are appointed by City Council on the recommendation of the Civic Appointments Committee for members of the public and Striking Committee for the Member of City Council.
3. The Chair will be a Member of City Council, appointed by City Council and, at its first meeting or as soon as possible after, the Advisory Committee will elect a member of the public as Co-Chair.
4. Public members are appointed for a four-year term, coinciding with the term of City Council and the Council Member is appointed for a two-year term. The Advisory Committee will meet until the completion of its mandate or the end of the current City Council term, whichever comes first.
5. The People and Equity Division will recruit members in accordance with the Public Appointments Policy.
6. Membership is voluntary and a public service. Members will not be remunerated or receive an honorarium. Expenses may be reimbursed pursuant to the Toronto Remuneration Policy.

C. Governance

1. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Advisory Committee will provide its advice to City Council through the Executive Committee or other appropriate Council Committee.
2. The Advisory Committee will operate in accordance with City Council's Simplified Rules of Procedure for Advisory Bodies.
3. All meetings of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Advisory Committee will be open to the public and comply with the Open Meeting Requirements of the City of Toronto Act, 2006.
4. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Advisory Committee will hold four meetings per year at the call of the Chair.
5. The People and Equity Division will provide staff support and strategic advice including the identification of key priority areas to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Advisory Committee.
6. The City Clerk's Office will provide meeting management support to the Advisory Committee.