

Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee End of Term Report

Date: May 13, 2022

To: Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee

From: Patrick Tobin, Director, Arts & Culture Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

Established by City Council at its meeting of March 27 and 28, 2019 ([EX3.4](#)), the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee provides advice to City Council on: trends, projects and initiatives within Toronto's Francophone communities that can contribute to the City's social, economic and cultural vitality; supporting the economic competitiveness and business growth of Francophone businesses and businesses supporting Francophone communities; and opportunities for the City of Toronto to work with Toronto's Francophone communities to promote increased engagement in City initiatives.

With the June 2022 meeting, the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee will have met 8 times over the course of the 2019-22 Toronto City Council term. The workplan included below outlines the key items established by the Committee to be dealt with over the current term of Council. The Committee addressed a range of issues spanning international relations, the education system, the labour market and access to City services, advocating for the needs of the local Francophone community and informing the provision of City services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Arts & Culture Services recommends that:

1. The Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee forward this item to the Economic and Community Development Committee for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

DECISION HISTORY

COMMENTS

Established by City Council at its meeting of March 27 and 28, 2019 ([EX3.4](#)), the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee provides advice to City Council on: trends, projects and initiatives within Toronto's Francophone communities that can contribute to the City's social, economic and cultural vitality; supporting the economic competitiveness and business growth of Francophone businesses and businesses supporting Francophone communities; and opportunities for the City of Toronto to work with Toronto's Francophone communities to promote increased engagement in City initiatives.

The Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee acts as a conduit between the Francophone community of the City of Toronto and its elected officials and City administration. Composed of community representatives with both institutional affiliations and members at large representing the broader community, it has been effective in advocating for the needs of local Francophones in terms of City governance, policy and services.

With the June 2022 meeting, the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee will have met 8 times over the course of the 2019-22 Toronto City Council term. The workplan included below outlines the key items established by the Committee to be dealt with over the current term of Council.

Specific efforts over the 2018-22 term of City Council, have included advocating for better service to French language speakers from City communications, the consideration of Francophone populations in City analysis of demographic data, and the strengthening of trade links between Toronto and other Francophone jurisdictions around the globe. The Committee also delivered upon its mandate by asking for and receiving updates on cultural funding to Francophone artists and organizations (as provided at the October 2021 meeting by the Toronto Arts Council and City strategies to effectively communicate with Francophone residents, as discussed with the City's Chief Communications Officer Brad Ross at the July 2021 session of the Committee.

In addition, the Committee brought forward many important updates on the priorities of the local Francophone community, including the development of the University Francophone of Ontario (UFO) and the needs of local Francophone organizations, such as La Fédération des gens d'affaires francophones de l'Ontario.

Over the current term of Council, the Committee addressed a range of issues spanning international relations, the education system, the labour market and access to City

services, advocating for the needs of the local Francophone community and informing the provision of City services. Going forward, the City Manager's Office working with City Clerks, will ensure that the Committee's make-up, mandate and agenda help deliver maximum value to the local Francophone community.

Workplan for the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee 2019-22

Work Plan Idea	Potential Service Alignment(s)	Update	
General			
Priorities for international engagement with Francophone cities and countries	Economic Development and Culture	Tabled at Committee meeting of October 2020 with update at February 2021 meeting.	
Engagement with technology sectors in Francophone countries	Economic Development and Culture	Item deferred due to pandemic impacts.	
Updated demographic information about the French population in Toronto	Social Development, Finance and Administration	Information provided at Committee meeting of February 2020.	
Effective strategies and mechanisms to communicate with the Francophone community	Strategic Communications	Item brought to Committee at July 2021 meeting.	
Survey of existing services to the French-speaking communities in Toronto	Multiple divisions	Item dealt with via multiple other presentations	

Work Plan Idea	Potential Service Alignment(s)	Update	
Engagement of the City of Toronto with multilateral Francophone organizations	City Managers' Office	Item discussed at Committee at various points in 2021, under lead by City Manager's Office.	
Provide overview of the labour market for French-speakers	Multiple divisions lead by Economic Development and Culture	Item brought to Committee at July 2021 meeting.	
Outline supports available to French-speaking Torontonians to address discrimination experienced by the Francophone communities, including anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination against Francophones and members of the LGBTQ2S community	Multiple divisions lead by Economic Development and Culture	Item brought to Committee at October 2021 meeting by Social Development Finance and Administration.	
Overview of arts and cultural events which cater (either primarily or secondarily) to Toronto's French-speaking community.	Economic Development and Culture	Item brought Committee at October 2021 meeting by Toronto Arts Council.	

Work Plan Idea	Potential Service Alignment(s)	Update	
Outline supports available to French-speaking Torontonians to address women's issues including poverty, safety and the economic security of women	Multiple divisions lead by Economic Development and Culture	Item to be brought to Committee at June 2022 meeting by Social Development Finance and Administration.	

CONTACT

Patrick Tobin, Director, Arts & Culture Services, Economic Development & Culture

SIGNATURE

Patrick Tobin
Director, Arts & Culture Services, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS
