

Appointment of Public Members to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date: April 3, 2023

To: Civic Appointments Committee

From: Chief People Officer, People & Equity Division

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY

This purpose of this report is to have City Council appoint twelve public members to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief People Officer, People & Equity Division recommends that:

1. City Council appoint the individuals outlined in Confidential Attachment 1 to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026, and until successors are appointed.
2. City Council direct that the balance of Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential as it relates to personal information about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Terms of Reference for the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee adopted by the City Council on February 7 and 8, 2023 provide for an honorarium of \$125.00 per public member per meeting attended. Based on the anticipated frequency of meetings and the number of public members, the financial impact to the City to provide honoraria for the public members of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee for the 2022-2026 term is estimated to be \$9,000 per year. These costs are included in Non-Program Expenditure Budget in the City's Approved 2023 Operating Budget and will be included in Non-Program Expenditure Budget in the City's annual Operating Budget Submissions for the years 2024 through 2026.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of February 7, 2023, City Council re-established Council Advisory Bodies for the 2022-2026 Council term, which included the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee. As part of this item, Council also adopted a revised composition for the committee including two members who are youth members between the ages of 18-29 years and two members who are to be elder members.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EX2.1>

COMMENTS

Mandate of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) is a Council Advisory Body that is required under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA). TAAC provides advice to City Council on:

- The requirements and implementation of AODA accessibility standards, the preparation of accessibility reports, and other matters for which Council may seek advice.
- All other functions of TAAC as specified in the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (O. Reg. 191/11 under the AODA), including consultation on:
 - The City's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
 - The proportion of on-demand accessible taxicabs required in the community
 - Recreational trails
 - Outdoor play spaces
 - Rest areas along exterior paths of travel
 - On-street parking spaces

- The prevention and elimination of barriers faced by persons with disabilities, in order to achieve accessibility with respect to City by-laws, policies, goods, services and programs, employment, facilities, buildings, and structures and premises.
- Identifying, preventing and removing barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities in public life.
- Advancing the social, cultural, and economic well-being of persons with disabilities.

Composition of the Committee

The TAAC is comprised of 12 members of the public and one member of City Council, who serves as the Committee Chair. These appointments are for a term of office ending November 14, 2026, and until successors are appointed.

In compliance with legislated requirements under the AODA, the majority of members are to be persons with disabilities.

In compliance with City Council's decision of February 7, 2023, two members are to be youth members between the ages of 18-29 years and two members are to be elder members (self-identified).

Recruitment and Selection of Nominees

In addition to the above requirements, and their availability to participate in meetings during business hours, the nominated TAAC members were recruited and selected to collectively bring the following skills and expertise to the committee:

- A strong dedication to the inclusion of persons with disabilities throughout all aspects of society.
- A strong understanding of the needs and concerns of a broad spectrum of persons with disabilities and seniors, gained through personal or professional experience.
- Knowledge of accessibility requirements and/or best practices, as they relate to, policies and procedures, service planning and delivery, employment, the built environment and public spaces, digital accessibility and accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- Experience in decision-making, communication, and citizen advocacy, gained through involvement with organizations and local initiatives that support persons with disabilities.

Following a month-long recruitment campaign, staff from the Accessibility Unit reviewed all eligible applications. Qualified applicants were short-listed and interviewed by staff from the Accessibility Unit and the Indigenous Affairs Office. The recommended nominees were chosen based on their personal and/or professional experience, as well as their ability to represent the needs and interests of a broad cross section of persons with disabilities.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Mary Madigan-Lee
Chief People Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - Nominees for Appointment to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee