

Selection of Candidates for Interview for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board

Date: October 30, 2023

To: Civic Appointments Committee

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee must select candidates to be interviewed for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The Civic Appointments Committee will conduct interviews at an upcoming meeting and recommend four candidates to City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee select eight of the candidates listed in Table 1 of Confidential Attachment 1 to be interviewed at an upcoming meeting for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.
2. The Civic Appointments Committee direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachments 1 and 2 remain confidential in its entirety as it relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held April 16 and 19, 2019, City Council established the composition of the City's fourteen appointees to the TRCA Board as seven Council Members and seven public members; and directed that the majority of the public member candidates recommended by the Civic Appointments Committee be women: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CC6.1>.

At its meeting held July 16-18, 2019, City Council appointed seven members of the public to the TRCA Board for a term of office ending July 16, 2023, and until successors are appointed: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CA8.8>.

At its meeting held December 17 and 18, 2019, City Council appointed Xiao Han to the TRCA Board for a term of office ending July 16, 2023, and until a successor is appointed: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CA11.2>.

At its meeting held on December 15, 16 and 17, 2021, City Council appointed Joseph Ogilvie, pending approval of a composition exemption request from the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.CA26.2>. In March 2022, the City's request for an exception was denied and therefore the individual was not appointed to the board.

At its meeting held on May 11, 2022, City Council appointed Council Members to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for a term ending November 14, 2022 and until successors are appointed: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.ST10.2>.

At its meeting held August 10, 2023, City Council appointed ten Council Members to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for a term ending December 31, 2024 and until successors are appointed: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.ST2.1>.

COMMENTS

The Province changed membership requirements for Conservation Authorities

In December 2020, Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures) amended the Conservation Authorities Act, which, among other things, now requires that at least 70 percent of municipal appointees to a conservation authority be Members of Council.

In February 2021, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks provided guidance on submitting requests for Minister's 'exceptions' under the Conservation Authorities Act, including this requirement.

The City requested an exception which was denied

In December 2021, City Council appointed a public Member to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority subject to approval of a composition exception request made to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks at that time. In March 2022, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks denied the City's request for an exception, resulting in the requirement that the City's appointees to the TRCA Board be comprised of 10 Council members and 4 public members.

Current Composition of the TRCA

The board consists of 28 members and is composed of:

- 14 representatives from the City of Toronto appointed by City Council of which 10 are Council members and 4 are public members.
- 14 members representing the Regional Municipalities of Peel (5 members), Durham (3 members), and York (5 members), the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio and the Town of Mono (1 member).

There are currently four positions under consideration

All four current public members of the TRCA Board were appointed to serve until July 16, 2023, and until successors are appointed.

Public members should meet certain qualifications

In addition to the general eligibility requirements in the Public Appointments Policy, public members of the TRCA must demonstrate:

- broad interest in, and knowledge of, conservation and the management of natural resources
- knowledge of the natural resources in the regions under the TRCA's jurisdiction
- flexible schedules for attendance at meetings, tours, special events, and other activities relating to the Authority's work
- ability to actively participate in the decision-making process
- interest in, and ability to, be an advocate of the Authority's programs, goals, and objectives.

The majority of public appointees to the TRCA should be women

City Council has directed that the majority of the candidates recommended for public appointment by the Civic Appointments Committee be women.

Terms of Office

The term of office for public appointees to the TRCA is governed by the *Conservation Authorities Act* which states that "A member shall be appointed for a term of up to four years, as may be determined by the council that appoints the member."

The new appointees will serve on the TRCA board until December 15, 2027, and until successors are appointed.

Outreach conducted for this board

The opportunity to apply to the TRCA Board was shared through the Public Appointments e-updates list, social media and the public Shape Your City campaign, and internal City partners including the Indigenous Affairs Office, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, and People and Equity.

Next steps - Interviews

Once the Civic Appointments Committee selects candidates, the City Clerk's Office will contact them to schedule their interviews. Eight interviews at 15 minutes each will take approximately 2 hours to complete, plus time for deliberations.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – List of Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board

Confidential Attachment 2 - Confidential Voluntary Diversity Information for Current Appointees to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board