

## **Appointment of Members to the Tribunals Nominating Panel**

**Date:** March 21, 2023

**To:** City Council

**From:** City Clerk

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to appoint public members to the Tribunal Nominating Panel. City Council established the Panel in December 2018 to make recommendations to Council on the appointment of public members to the City's nine quasi-judicial tribunals.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The City Clerk recommends that:

1. City Council appoint the following nine individuals to the Tribunals Nominating Panel, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending March 31, 2027, and until successors are appointed:

- Abena Buahene
- Patricia Foran
- Teng-Teng Amy Go
- Asiya Hirji
- Anna Kinastowski
- Dr. Lilian Ma, as Chair
- Kenneth Richard
- Daphne Simon
- Voy Stelmaszynski

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial implications arising from this report.

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting held February 26, 2019, City Council appointed seven members to the Tribunals Nominating Panel, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending February 28, 2023, and until successors are appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CC3.5>

At its meeting of December 4, 5 and 13, 2018, City Council approved the establishment of the Tribunals Nominating Panel as part of the item on recalibrating City Council's governance system for 26 members:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CC1.1>

## COMMENTS

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### **City Council established a Tribunals Nominating Panel to be appointed on the recommendation of the City Clerk**

At its meeting of December 4, 5 and 13, 2018, City Council authorized the City Clerk to shortlist, interview and recommend candidates directly to City Council for appointment to the Tribunals Nominating Panel.

The Nominating Panel allows the City to assess the skills and qualifications of candidates for appointment to its tribunals through a selection process that is led by members with background and expertise in quasi-judicial adjudicative boards and selection processes.

The City Clerk's Office screened and shortlisted potential candidates based on the established qualifications and eligibility. All candidates submitted an application and shortlisted candidates were interviewed by a selection panel consisting of:

- Kelly McCarthy, Deputy City Clerk, Secretariat, City Clerk's Office
- Matthew Cowley, Acting Manager, Public Appointments, City Clerk's Office.

### **Composition of the Tribunals Nominating Panel**

The Tribunals Nominating Panel is a roster composed of up to nine public members. Members from the roster will convene in panels established by the City Clerk and the Chair will be selected by Council upon recommendation from the Clerk.

### **Term of office**

The public members appointed through this process will serve a four-year term on the Nominating Panel ending March 31, 2027 and until successors are appointed.

## **Staff conducted outreach for this opportunity**

The City Clerk's Office conducted a targeted outreach strategy to attract diverse, highly qualified candidates with a background in relevant fields including adjudication, mediation, planning, the public sector, and natural justice, as well as an understanding of the complexities of city building and the diverse communities within which the tribunals operate.

## **Staff are recommending nine candidates for appointment**

Staff are recommending nine highly qualified candidates for the Tribunals Nominating Panel. Collectively, these members bring together significant background and expertise in such fields as mediation, adjudication, law, governance, social work, and decision-making, as well as having extensive experience in leading selection processes for high-profile public positions.

All of the recommended candidates have met the eligibility requirements to serve on the Tribunals Nominating Panel

Their biographies are attached as Attachment 1.

## **CONTACT**

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Matthew Cowley, Acting Manager, Public Appointments Secretariat,  
[matthew.cowley@toronto.ca](mailto:matthew.cowley@toronto.ca), 416-392-4389.

## **SIGNATURE**

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John D. Elvidge  
City Clerk

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 – Names and biographies of candidates recommended for appointment to the Tribunals Nominating Panel

## **Attachment 1 - Names and biographies of candidates recommended for appointment to the Tribunals Nominating Panel**

### Abena Buahene

Abena Buahene has held senior leadership roles with several regulatory/compliance focused bodies including the Law Society of Ontario and the Condominium Authority of Ontario which includes an on-line dispute resolution service through the Condominium Authority Tribunal. She currently serves as a public appointee on the Council of the Ontario College of Teachers and also is the vice-chair of the human resources committee and a member of the Council's selection and nominating committee.

### Patricia Foran

Patricia Foran practised in the field of municipal and planning law in Ontario for 30 years. She regularly appeared before the Ontario Land Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board) and Ontario Courts and has been recognized as a leading expert in her field by Lexpert and Best Lawyers in Canada. A frequent speaker and writer in the field of planning law, she also co-authored the Ontario Planning Legislation and Commentary (LexisNexis) (2004-2021) and is former Director of Canadian Urban Institute.

### Teng-Teng Amy Go

Amy is a social worker by training and has dedicated her professional career to serving immigrants and seniors, promoting and advocating for culturally and linguistically appropriate care and health equity for racialized communities. Amy has extensive experiences in non-profit governance as board chair and member of local, provincial, and national organizations. For her contributions, Amy received YWCA Woman of Distinction Award and Immigrant Success Award and TRIEC's Immigrant Success Award.

### Asiya Hirji

Asiya Hirji is currently a staff lawyer with the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law's Legal Aid Clinic, Downtown Legal Services. Prior to that she worked at Toronto's East Side community clinic, Neighbourhood Legal Services (NLS), and also with the Health Justice Program, a collaboration between NLS and St. Michael's Hospital. Asiya holds a B.A. (Honours) from McGill University and an L.L.B from the University of Ottawa. Asiya is a member in good standing with the Law Society of Ontario.

### Anna Kinastowski

Anna Kinastowski is a graduate of McMaster University and the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto with over 35 years of experience in municipal government. She has held senior positions in the former City of Scarborough and the City of Toronto. She has a solid background in planning and municipal law as well as experience in leading and managing the largest municipal legal division in Canada. She has been recognized

as an expert in her field by her peers.

Dr. Lilian Ma

For the past thirty years Dr. Ma has held senior positions within federal and provincial governments on a myriad of administrative agencies and tribunals, involving matters on immigration and refugee status, social justice, landlords and tenants, public education, race relations, human rights and health. She is a retired lawyer with a previous research scientist background. She last held positions of Alternate Executive Chair of the SJTO for Ontario and the Ex Director of CRRF for Canada.

Kenneth Richard

Both sides of Kenn Richard's family come from the original Métis and Francophone settlements along the Red and the Assiniboine River in Manitoba. He is of the first generation in his family to be raised in the city and graduate from university. He holds a Masters in Social Work, University of Manitoba, and has been practicing social work, principally within Aboriginal child welfare, since the mid-seventies

Daphne Simon

Daphne has a long-standing career as a senior leader in the public and not-for-profit sectors. During her tenure as a practicing lawyer, within the legal clinic system, she gained a breadth of expertise advocating for the advancement of clients from equality-deserving communities. Daphne has experience as an adjudicator, instructor and trainer within the Ontario's administrative justice sector. Daphne is an active member of various arts-oriented Boards. She is fluent in the French language.

Voy Stelmaszynski

Voy Stelmaszynski is a retired lawyer with over 25 years experience in the provincial tribunal sector, primarily with the Ontario Labour Relations Board. Voy has worked extensively with the Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators (on the executive, as an instructor), and has been guest-panellist at the Law Society, the Ontario Bar Association and the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals. He served on the Tribunals Nominating Panel in its inaugural iteration, 2018-2022.