

# **Housing Rights Advisory Committee**

## **City Council-Approved Terms of Reference for the 2022 - 2026 Term**

### **(March 29, 30 and 31, 2023 - CC5.6)**

#### **A Purpose**

1. The [City of Toronto](#) recognizes that housing is essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of the person and to building sustainable and inclusive communities. The City is committed to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as affirmed in international law. This commitment is set out in the [Toronto Housing Charter adopted by City Council in 2019](#). The Toronto Housing Charter is consistent with the federal Housing Policy Declaration adopted as part of the National Housing Strategy Act S.C. 2019, c. 29 s. 313. The City's [HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan](#) supports this objective through a blueprint for actions across the full housing spectrum.
2. The City is committed to hear from those who represent the views of those with living/lived experience of housing precarity, homelessness and discrimination, housing advocates, academics and service providers to inform policies, programs and decision-making of City Council as it pertains to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.
3. The mandate of the Housing Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) is to provide advice to City Council:
  - a) on policies, programs and actions that the City can implement to advance its commitment to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Toronto based on housing and human rights expertise, lived experiences of housing precarity, discrimination and homelessness, and academic research and learnings from other jurisdictions;
  - b) to ensure that the interests and needs of those with living/lived experiences of housing precarity, discrimination and homelessness are reflected in City programs and service delivery;
  - c) to support the City's engagement with Indigenous, Black and other equity-deserving communities, including those with living/lived experiences and using an intersectional equity approach, in order to help identify systemic barriers that prevent them from accessing and maintaining adequate housing, and to recommend actions to remove such barriers;

- d) on advocacy and communications with other orders of government to recommend actions that they can take to address systemic barriers to adequate housing which lie outside of municipal jurisdiction.
  - e) by independently monitoring progress of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan's implementation through publicly available data, within the Advisory Committee's capacity to do so.
4. The Advisory Committee is a Council Advisory Body. It may not direct City staff or make binding decisions on behalf of City Council or the City of Toronto. Any Advisory Committee 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.
  5. The City's commitments to Indigenous Peoples are advanced through the City's [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) (RAP) from 2022 to 2032. To confront anti-Black racism in Toronto, City Council adopted the [Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism](#) in 2017. The intersectional equity approach taken by this Committee is rooted in the City's commitments made in these and other Plans.

## **B. Composition and Term**

1. The Advisory Committee is composed of 12 members, including 11 members of the public and a Member of City Council. The Chair will be a member of the public recruited specifically for consideration for that position. The public members of the Advisory Committee are comprised of community and policy leaders with a diversity of lived/living experience and expertise in housing and human rights and reflecting the socio-economic and geographic diversity of Toronto communities. The Advisory Committee will undertake its work through an intersectional equity lens.
2. Members are appointed by City Council on the recommendation of the Civic Appointments Committee for members of the public, including the Chair, and Striking Committee for the Member of City Council.
3. Public members will include the following:
  - i. 4 members with a diversity of lived/living experience of housing precarity, discrimination, social or supportive housing and/or homelessness;
  - ii. 7 representatives of organizations working in such fields (but not limited to) as housing services, health (including mental health) services, substance abuse services, legal services, community services (including

newcomer, youth and senior services) or organizations focused on research related to poverty reduction, housing and/or human rights.

- iii. At least two of the public members will be between the ages of 18 and 33.
  - iv. At least two of the public members will have lived experience and/or expertise in social barriers impacting Black communities and reflect the diversity of Black communities.
  - v. At least two of the public members will identify as First Nations, Inuit or Metis.
  - vi. At least four of the public members will self-identify as women.
  - vii. At least two of the public members will self-identify as being from the 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
4. All Members are appointed by City Council. The public members are recommended to Council by the Civic Appointments Committee. The Member of Council is recommended by the Striking Committee.
  5. Public members are appointed for a term coincident with the term of City Council and the Council Members are 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.
  6. The Housing Secretariat Division, in collaboration with Shelter, Support & Housing Administration, Confronting Anti-Black Racism unit, Indigenous Affairs Office and Equity & Human Rights unit will recruit public members in accordance with the Public Appointments Policy.
  7. Advisory Committee public members will be eligible to receive an honorarium of \$125.00 per meeting attended in recognition of the contributions they are providing to Toronto. Honoraria payments will be available to the maximum number of meetings approved by City Council for the Advisory Committee, as specified in this Terms of Reference. The Advisory Committee's honoraria payments are subject to the following:
    - a) honoraria are not intended for public members who serve on the Advisory Committee as representatives of organizations or businesses where they are employed;
    - b) public members who serve as the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee are not eligible for any additional honoraria; and
    - c) honoraria are not paid for attendance at sub-committee meetings or events.

## **C. Governance**

1. The Advisory Committee will provide its advice to City Council through the Executive Committee.
2. The Advisory Committee will operate in accordance with City Council's Simplified Rules of Procedure for Advisory Bodies.
3. The Advisory Committee will hold a minimum of four meetings per year at the call of the Chair and the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat.
4. The Housing Secretariat Division will provide staff support and strategic advice to the Advisory Committee.
5. The City Clerk's Office will provide meeting management support to the Advisory Committee.