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October 16, 2023

RE: Chair's Report- Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee: October 16, 2023

- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

October marks National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in Canada. With 1 in 4 Canadians identifying as a person with a disability and the number of those with a disability increasing as the population ages, NDEAM plays an important role in awareness and diversity in the workplace.

First started in 2010 by the province of Manitoba and later adopted by other provinces before being recognized nationally, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities, encourages improvements to employment practices to be more inclusive and remove barriers for those with disabilities in the workplace.

- **Increasing accessible units in HousingTO's affordable unit target**

In September's Planning and Housing Committee meeting, a HousingTO Action Plan [progress update](#) was provided to the committee. The update included a target of 2500 affordable units to be built by the end of the council term in 2026, with 20% of those units meeting or exceeding the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) accessibility standards with all common areas being fully barrier free.

While this is a great start, I believe these 2500 units should *all* meet CMHC's accessibility standards and I look forward to collaborating as a board with the City and applicable parties to get the percentage of the 2500 units at or as close to 100% as possible.

- **Update on one-on-one board member meetings with Chair Myers**

Thank you to each of the TAAC members who took the time to meet one-on-one with me over the past few weeks. It was great to get to know each of you better and hear about your passions and great ideas for how to move TAAC forward. While most of the meetings have wrapped up, I look forward to completing them with the remaining members over the next couple of weeks.





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- **Chairing my first TTC Board Meeting**

On September 26th, 2023 I chaired my first TTC Board meeting. We will be hearing some of the items from that agenda in our meeting today, but I wanted to share the positive outlook I have being chair of both TTC and TAAC and the unique opportunity it presents to our committee. While our mandate spreads across so many areas of the City, its boards, departments etc., TTC is an area that I look forward to working together with each of you to make transit more accessible and equitable for those living with disabilities.

