TORONTO

# REPORT FOR ACTION

# Making Electronic Participation Permanent for the Toronto Investment Board

**Date:** December 11, 2023
**To:** Toronto Investment Board
**From:** City Clerk
**Wards:** All

## SUMMARY


The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Toronto Investment Board make amendments to By-law 1-2018 to make electronic participation a permanent option for meetings.

At its meeting of March 29, 30 and 31, 2023, City Council adopted Item EX3.7, and in so doing has authorized local boards governed by the City of Toronto Act, 2006, to amend their own rules of procedure to permit electronic participation by board members and the public, and to change the time required to achieve quorum from 15 minutes to 30 minutes, and authorize such boards to continue to meet electronically in accordance with the previously adopted electronic participation rules past the May 9, 2023 deadline until they can meet to consider procedural amendments.


## RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that the Toronto Investment Board:

1. Amend By-Law 1-2018 to:
   a. Permit electronic participation in all meetings
   b. Allow 30 minutes instead of 15 minutes to achieve quorum

2. Adopt the draft bill in Attachment 1 to the report (December 11, 2023) from the City Clerk to implement Recommendation 1.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

## DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of March 29, 30 and 31, 2023, City Council adopted Item EX3.7, and in so doing has authorized local boards governed by the City of Toronto Act, 2006, to amend their own rules of procedure to permit electronic participation by board members and the public, and to change the time required to achieve quorum from 15 minutes to 30 minutes, and authorize such boards to continue to meet electronically in accordance with the previously adopted electronic participation rules past the May 9, 2023 deadline until they can meet to consider procedural amendments.
https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EX3.7

On October 7, 2020, the Toronto Investment Board extended the remote electronic participation rules for a period ending one year following the termination of the COVID-19 emergency declaration under section 4 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.IB8.1

In July 2020 the Provincial government introduced Bill 197, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020. Among other things, it amends the meeting rules of the City of Toronto Act including electronic participation. It makes similar amendments to the Municipal Act so that these rules apply to every Ontario municipality
https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-197

On July 28 and 29, 2020 City Council extended the electronic participation rules applicable only during a declared emergency contained in Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, for a period of one year following the later of the termination of the Provincial emergency or the termination of the municipal emergency.
https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.EX15.21

The municipal emergency was terminated on May 9, 2022, after the Provincial emergency had been terminated.

## COMMENTS

Electronic Participation in Toronto Investment Board Meetings

Since July 2020, the Toronto Investment Board has permitted electronic participation at its meetings. This began as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has been a success.

The public has expressed that having the option to participate remotely allows for improved access and mitigates issues around childcare, time off work and other factors that may have previously limited their ability to attend a meeting in person. The remote meeting model allows the public to choose how they wish to address the Board, encouraging participation and increasing accessibility.

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft amendment to By-Law 1-2018