

Selection of Candidates for Interview for the Toronto Public Library Board

Date: February 22, 2024

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 Public Library Board.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee will select candidates to interview for appointment to the Toronto Public Library Board. Following the interviews, the Civic Appointments Committee will recommend one candidate for appointment to City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee select 5 candidates listed in Table 1 of Confidential Attachment 1 to be interviewed at its next meeting for appointment to the Toronto Public Library Board.
2. The Civic Appointments Committee direct that Confidential Attachments 1 and 2 remain confidential in their entirety as they relate to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Toronto Public Library Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on February 7 and 8, 2023, City Council appointed eight public members to the Toronto Public Library Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026, and until successors are appointed:
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CA2.3>.

At its meeting held on June 8 and 9, 2021, City Council appointed one public member to fill a vacancy on the Toronto Public Library Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2022, and until a successor is appointed:
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.CA19.2>.

At its meeting held October 29 and 30, 2019, City Council appointed two public members to fill two vacancies on the Toronto Public Library Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2022, and until successors are appointed: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CA10.1>.

At its meeting held March 27 and 28, 2019, City Council appointed one public member to fill a vacancy on the Toronto Public Library Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2022, and until a successor is appointed:
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CA4.2>.

At its meeting held on January 30 and 31, 2019, City Council appointed seven public members to the Toronto Public Library Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2022, and until a successor is appointed:
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.CA2.2>.

COMMENTS

Composition of the Toronto Public Library Board

The Toronto Public Library Board consists of 10 members composed of:

- the Mayor or designate
- 1 Member of Council
- 8 public members

There is currently one position under consideration

There is currently one vacancy on the Toronto Public Library Board due to the resignation of Dhruv Jain effective November 29, 2023.

Public members serve four-year terms concurrent with City Council

Under the *Public Libraries Act*, a board member holds office for a term concurrent with the term of the appointing council, or until a successor is appointed. The successful candidate in this process will be appointed for a term of office ending November 14, 2026, and until a successor is appointed.

Public members must satisfy certain eligibility requirements

In addition to the eligibility requirements set out in the City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy, the *Public Libraries Act* also requires Toronto Public Library Board members to be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Public members should meet certain qualifications

In addition to the general eligibility requirements in the Public Appointments Policy, public members collectively should have sound judgement and personal integrity and represent a range of expertise, experience, and achievement in:

- literature and literacy
- arts and culture
- science and technology
- business
- financial management
- philanthropy
- public sector governance
- community service
- community diversity
- a youthful perspective, defined as an individual in the 18-30 range, is a desired qualification for at least one public member.

Public members receive remuneration

Public members receive an annual retainer of \$350.

Consultation with the Toronto Public Library

In preparation for the recruitment process, Public Appointments staff consulted with the City Librarian and Board Chair. It was suggested that a candidate with public sector or non-profit governance experience, board experience, or experience or knowledge of technology relevant to the library would be an asset.

Outreach conducted

The opportunity to join the Toronto Public Library Board was shared through online ads, the use of LinkedIn, and outreach via the Public Appointments e-update list and internal City partners.

Next steps - Interviews

Once the Civic Appointments Committee has selected candidates for interviews, the City Clerk's Office will contact the candidates to schedule them for 15-minute interviews. Five interviews plus breaks and deliberations will take approximately 2 hours to complete.

CONTACT

Robyn Summers, Manager, Public Appointments, City Clerk's Office,
robyn.summers@toronto.ca, 416-338-1911

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 Public Library Board

Confidential Attachment 2 – Confidential Diversity Information Summary for Current Members of the Toronto Public Library Board