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RE: Chair's Report- Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee: May 6, 2024

- **Mental Health Week: May 6-10**

As we convene this meeting at the start of Mental Health Week, it's imperative that we recognize the intersectionality between mental health and accessibility. Mental well-being is a fundamental aspect of overall accessibility, and it's incumbent upon us as an advisory committee to ensure that our decisions and the work we do together reflect this reality. Let's use this week as an opportunity to amplify awareness, foster understanding, and continue to keep the mental health needs of all individuals, particularly those within our accessibility community, in mind as we move forward as a committee.

- **Wheel-Trans Community Consultations**

As Chair of the TTC Board, I was pleased with the attendance and participation in the Wheel-Trans Community Consultations hosted last month. The community consultations aimed to further educate the public and gain feedback on our city's wheel-trans service. Over the past month, we've had the privilege of engaging with our residents, listening to their experiences, and gathering valuable feedback on how we can improve accessibility in our transit system. These consultations have been instrumental in shaping our understanding of the challenges faced by individuals who rely on wheel-transit services, and they've provided crucial insights that will help guide future decisions.

- **National Accessibility Week: May 25-June 1**

As we anticipate National Accessibility Week later this month, let us approach it with a sense of purpose and optimism. National Accessibility Week provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on the strides we've made towards inclusivity and to renew our commitment to furthering accessibility efforts across our city. Through collaboration, sharing of lived experiences, and our work together as an advisory committee, let's leverage this occasion to elevate awareness. National Accessibility Week is a time to celebrate progress while looking ahead to the important work and progress to be made.

