



 councillor_myers@toronto.ca

 (416) 338-2858

 100 Queen St. W. 2nd Floor, A8
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2

 150 Borough Dr. 2nd Floor
Scarborough, Ontario, M1P 4N7

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

- **International Week of Deaf People (September 23-29, 2024):**

As we commemorate the International Week of Deaf People 2024, I want to take a moment to honour the rich culture, resilience, and contributions of our Deaf community. This week serves as an important reminder of the ongoing need for inclusivity and equitable access to services for all. Recognizing Sign Languages as fundamental human rights is not just about communication; it's about respect, dignity, and ensuring that every member of our community can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Throughout this week, I encourage everyone to engage with and learn from the Deaf community. Whether it's understanding the challenges they face or celebrating the unique cultural expressions within the Deaf community, let's use this time to build stronger connections and foster a society where every person is valued and empowered.

Together, we can make our city a place where diversity is celebrated and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

- **International Day of Sign Language (September 23, 2024):**

As we begin International Week of the Deaf People, we also celebrate International Day of Sign Language on September 23, 2024. As the Chair of Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee, I am proud of our city's ongoing efforts to make our community more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

Sign languages are not just a means of communication but a vital expression of identity and belonging. They connect us, bridge gaps, and empower millions of people, including members of our Deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

On this International Day of Sign Languages, let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering an environment where everyone, regardless of their abilities, can fully participate in our society.

