

From: [Info TLF Community](#)
To: [Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee](#)
Cc: [Mayor Chow](#); doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2024.DI9.6 on October 17, 2024 Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
Date: October 16, 2024 9:26:32 AM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the October 17, 2024 Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting on item 2024.DI9.6, Toronto Beach Accessibility

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Dear Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee,

The Toronto Lakefront Community (TLC) is a volunteer advocacy group dedicated to ensuring that the lakefront remains clean, safe, and accessible for all.

Lake Ontario stands as one of our city's most valuable assets, deserving equitable access for all residents and visitors. Unfortunately, none of the city's beaches currently offer easy access to the sandy shore or water for individuals with disabilities.

Despite decades of advocacy, physical barriers continue to hinder the participation of people with disabilities in various aspects of life—work, education, recreation, and beyond. Approximately 25% of our population identifies as having a disability, which equates to around 750,000 Torontonians.

We fully support the recommendation to invite the General Manager of Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PF&R) to share the city's plans for improving beach accessibility with the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) at his earliest convenience.

While we recognize that beach accessibility primarily falls under the jurisdiction of the PF&R Department, a comprehensive solution requires interdepartmental cooperation, public engagement, and funding from all levels of government.

We propose that TAAC's invitation to the General Manager includes requests to address the following points in his update:

1. Interdepartmental Coordination:

How will the General Manager, PF&R engage with and coordinate efforts across other city departments (e.g., Transportation) to provide the most effective and comprehensive solution for beach accessibility?

2. Public Engagement:

What measures will the General Manager, PF&R take to ensure meaningful public

engagement in the design of beach accessibility? For instance, will Parks engage with focus groups, community organizations, and Waterfront Ward Councillors?

3. Funding:

What processes will the General Manager, PF&R implement to secure necessary resources from both federal and provincial governments to enhance beach accessibility in Toronto?

We are fortunate to have a beautiful, clean, and swimmable lakefront, and we believe that everyone deserves the right to enjoy it inclusively.

We look forward to the General Manager's update and thank TAAC for its commitment to improving accessibility at our beaches.

Sincerely,

Jane Anderson

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Cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Mayor Olivia Chow

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