

Selection of Candidates for Interview for the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Date: April 1, 2025

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 Housing Rights Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee must select candidates to interview for appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee. 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 five of the candidates listed in Confidential Attachment 1a for interview at its next meeting for appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee.
2. The Civic Appointments Committee direct that Confidential Attachments 1a, 1b, and 2 remain confidential in their entirety as they relate to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on December 17 and 18, 2024, City Council appointed one member to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.CA20.2>

At its meeting on December 13, 14, and 15, 2023, City Council appointed eleven members to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CA11.1>

At its meeting on May 10, 11 and 12, 2023, City Council amended the Terms of Reference for the Housing Rights Advisory Committee:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.MM6.28>.

At its meeting on March 29, 30 and 31, 2023, City Council adopted the Terms of Reference for the Housing Rights Advisory Committee:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC5.6>.

At its meeting on July 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2022, City Council adopted a series of recommendations to establish the role or function of a Housing Commissioner for the City of Toronto. This included direction to City staff to report to City Council with a proposed Terms of Reference for a new Council Advisory Committee to support the City's goals set out in the Toronto Housing Charter and HousingTO Plan for the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX34.7>.

At its meeting of December 17-18, 2019, City Council adopted PH11.5 "HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan" as the framework to address Toronto's housing and homelessness challenges by 2030. This Plan includes a number of actions and targets to address critical needs across the housing spectrum. This also included the adoption of a revised Housing Charter, committing the City to advance the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. The City Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.PH11.5>

COMMENTS

Composition of the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee will be composed of 12 members, including 11 members of the public and 1 Member of City Council. The public members will include:

- At least 4 members with a diversity of lived/living experience of housing precarity, discrimination, living in social or supportive housing and/or homelessness;
- 7 representatives of organizations working in such fields as (but not limited to) housing services, health (including mental health) services, substance and harm reduction services, legal services, community services (including newcomer, people with disabilities, youth and senior services) or organizations focused on research related to poverty reduction, housing and/or human rights;
- At least 2 between the ages of 18 and 33;
- At least 2 who self-identify as a person with a disability;
- At least 2 who have lived experience and/or expertise in social barriers impacting Black communities and reflect the diversity of Black communities;
- At least 2 who self-identify as First Nations, Inuit or Metis;
- At least 4 who self-identify as women;
- At least 2 who self-identify as being from the 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

There is currently one position under consideration

There is currently one position under consideration due to the resignation of one member on January 6, 2025.

Term of office

Public members of Council Advisory Bodies are appointed for a term coincident with the term of City Council. The advisory committee will meet until the completion of its mandate or the end of the current City Council term, ending on November 14, 2026, whichever comes first.

Public members should meet certain qualifications

In addition to the general eligibility requirements set out in the Public Appointments Policy, members should collectively bring the following skills and expertise to the committee:

- A strong interest in progressive advancement of the right to adequate housing and the rights of people experiencing housing precarity, discrimination and/or homelessness;
- Expertise in a human rights-based approach to housing and understanding of international laws and frameworks establishing the right to adequate housing;
- Knowledge and awareness of the function of different levels of government and intergovernmental roles and responsibilities related to housing;
- Knowledge of the academic research related to a human rights based approach to housing and housing policy and/or learnings from other jurisdictions;
- Experience in communication, decision-making, community advocacy;

- Experience or skills in navigating sensitive discussions in a public environment, facilitating respectful dialogue, and fostering a welcoming and safe space for diverse experiences to be shared;
- Availability to attend meetings during business hours.

Consultation with Housing Secretariat Staff and the Committee Chair

In preparation for the recruitment process, Public Appointments consulted with the Committee Chair and staff from the Housing Secretariat. It was indicated that a candidate with a background in housing accessibility within the housing rights framework and an understanding of housing challenges faced by people with disabilities would be an asset to the committee.

Outreach was conducted for this vacancy

The opportunity to join the Housing Rights Advisory Committee was shared through LinkedIn, 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 deliberations will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1a - List of Eligible Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information, and Applications for Appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Confidential Attachment 1b - List of Ineligible Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information, and Applications for Appointment to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Confidential Attachment 2 - Diversity Information Summary for Current Public Members of the Housing Rights Advisory Committee