

Selection of Candidates for Interview for the Toronto Public Library Board

Date: May 28, 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 Toronto Public Library Board.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee must 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 4 of the candidates listed in Confidential Attachment 1a for interview at its next meeting for appointment to the Toronto Public Library Board.
2. The Civic Appointments Committee direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachments 1a, 1b, and 2 remain confidential in its entirety as it relates 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 April 17 and 18, 2024, City Council appointed one candidate to the Toronto Public Library Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026, and until a successor is appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX15.3>

At its meeting held February 7 and 8, 2023, City Council appointed eight candidates to the Toronto Public Library Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026, and until a successor is appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CA2.3>

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

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 one successful candidate in this process will be appointed for a term of office ending November 14, 2026, and until successors are appointed.

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 appointments staff have consulted with the Toronto Public Library

In preparation for this process, Public Appointments staff consulted with the board's chair and the City Librarian in March 2025 to discuss current trends in library programs and services, emerging challenges and opportunities, and how they relate to the board.

In addition to the Council-approved board qualifications and a commitment to the Toronto Public Library's vision, mission, values and services, it was suggested that experience in such areas as board governance, technology, equity and diversity would be additional assets to the board.

Public members must satisfy certain eligibility requirements

To be eligible for appointment to this board public members must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy.

The *Public Libraries Act* also requires board members to be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Public members receive remuneration

Public members receive an annual retainer of \$350. If the chair is a public member, they receive an annual retainer of \$850. If the vice chair is a public member, they receive an annual retainer of \$600.

Outreach was conducted for these vacancies

The opportunity to join the Toronto Public Library Board was included in a city-wide outreach campaign launched in March 2025. This recruitment included the use of LinkedIn and outreach via the Public Appointments e-update list.

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. Four 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 Toronto Public Library Board

Confidential Attachment 1b - List of Ineligible Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information, 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