

Appointment of Public Member to the Toronto Public Library Board

Date: July 10, 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 will conduct interviews and recommend one candidate to City Council for appointment to the Toronto Public Library Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. Civic Appointments Committee recommend one candidate to City Council for appointment 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.
2. City Council direct that Confidential Attachments 1a, 1b, and 2- 4 remain confidential in their entirety as they relate 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 on June 30, 2025, the Civic Appointments Committee selected four candidates to interview for appointment to the Toronto Public Library Board:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.CA27.2>

At its meeting held on April 17 and 18, 2024, City Council appointed one public member 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.CA15.3>.

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

There is currently one position under consideration

There is currently one vacancy on the Toronto Public Library Board due to the resignation of Justice Faith Betty, effective February 10, 2025.

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

Public members must satisfy certain eligibility requirements

In addition to the eligibility requirements set out in the City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy, the *Public Libraries Act* also requires Toronto Public Library Board members to be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

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 members receive remuneration

Public members receive an annual retainer of \$350.

Consultation with the Toronto Public Library

In preparation for the recruitment process, Public Appointments staff consulted with the City Librarian and Board Chair. It was suggested that a candidate with a strong understanding of board governance (supported by non-profit or community-sector experience), experience with technology and artificial intelligence (as related to their impact on operations and data privacy), and a genuine passion for public libraries would be an asset to the library.

Public release of name of recommended candidate

The name and biography of the recommended candidate will be publicly reported once the Civic Appointments Committee forwards its recommendation to City Council.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1a – List of Eligible Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Toronto Public Library Board

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

Confidential Attachment 3 – Skills matrix for the Toronto Public Library Board

Confidential Attachment 4 – Interview Schedule for July 21, 2025 (to be provided under separate cover)