



May 8, 2025

**RE: Chair's Report- Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee: May 9, 2025**

- **Mental Health Week (May 5-10):**

As we come together for our May TAAC meeting, I would like to recognize that this week we observe Mental Health Week. Mental health is a critical component of overall well-being, and it intersects deeply with accessibility. Too often, individuals living with mental health challenges face barriers—both visible and invisible—that limit their full participation in community life. This week serves as a reminder that mental health matters, and that creating accessible environments includes supporting mental wellness, reducing stigma, and ensuring equitable access to services and supports. Let us continue to listen, learn, and lead with empathy as we build a more inclusive Toronto for everyone.

- **National Accessibility Week (May 25-31):**

I am honoured to recognize National Accessibility Week later this month—a time to celebrate the progress we've made toward a more inclusive city, while acknowledging the work that still lies ahead. Accessibility is not just about physical infrastructure; it's about removing barriers in attitudes, policies, communication, and design that prevent full participation for people of all abilities. This week highlights the important contributions of persons with disabilities in shaping our communities and underscores our collective responsibility to ensure equal access and opportunity.

- **AccessFest- May 31, 2025:**

Toronto is well known for its many festivals that take place year-round across our city. AccessFest is the newest festival hosted by AccessNow with support from the City of Toronto. AccessFest is a free, city-wide event that brings together people of all abilities to explore accessibility in action through interactive exhibits, performances, panel discussions, and local services that champion equity and inclusion. It's an opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate the diverse contributions of Torontonians living with disabilities. Learn more and access free tickets by visiting:

<https://accessnow.com/fest/schedule/>

Kind Regards,

**Jamaal Myers**

Chair- Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee



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