


Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

September 5, 2025

RE: CHAIR'S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
• International Day of Sign Languages (September 23, 2025)

On 19 December 2017, the UN General Assembly declared 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages to raise public awareness about and strengthen the status of sign languages. As TAAC Chair I am proud that Canada was one of the 97 member countries to vote for adoption of the resolution as a co-sponsor and I am proud of our city's ongoing efforts to make our city more inclusive and accessible for everyone who calls it home or chooses to visit. I am reminded of the elementary school children that I have met in my ward who proudly tell me that they know their alphabet in two languages, English and American Sign Language. But we have a lot of work still to do and I am committed to doing this work as many hands make light work.

• International Week of Deaf People (September 22 – 28, 2025)

The International Day of Sign Language takes place during the International Week of Deaf People. This year themes are:

- Monday, 22 September 2025 – “**Deaf communities leading**”
- Tuesday, 23 September 2025 – “**No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights**”
- Wednesday, 24 September 2025 – “**Multilingual education for Deaf learners**”
- Thursday, 25 September 2025 – “**Deaf Rights in Crises**”
- Friday, 26 September 2025 – “**Recognition of National Sign Language**”
- Saturday, 27 September 2025 – “**Sign Language Access services**”
- Sunday, 28 September 2025 – “**Set the basis for the future: together we can innovate, inspire, and impact!**”

Each one of these days and their respective themes give us all an opportunity to engage with and learn from the dynamic deaf communities and deaf cultures that live our city. I look forward to reflecting, learning, and working alongside deaf communities to create a city where deaf people can sign everywhere.

Respectfully,

Councillor Jamaal Myers

