

From: [James Sessford](#)
To: [Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.DI14.7 on October 24, 2025 Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
Date: October 23, 2025 2:07:12 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the October 24, 2025 Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting on item 2025.DI14.7, Creating More Accessible and Inclusive Events

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

My comments relate to the need for indoor air quality to be considered as part of development of an Accessibility and Inclusion Handbook for event organizers. I am speaking as a researcher in long COVID at University of Toronto. Indoor air quality is an accessibility issue as poor indoor air quality is associated with increased transmission of viruses like COVID-19, which can result in disabling conditions such as long COVID. According to the government of Canada, the risk is amplified in crowded indoor event settings, especially where singing/shouting are taking place (1). In order for a handbook on accessibility of events to address the stated purpose, it must address indoor air quality and disease transmission. These impacts are also known to disproportionately impact marginalised groups, compounding the urgency for addressing this matter (2).

1. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html>
2. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8962178/>

Thank you,

James Sessford, Ph.D., R. Kin
Pronouns: he/him
Research Associate
Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
Rehabilitation Sciences Institute
Temerty Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto
www.linkedin.com/in/james-sessford/