



March 17, 2025

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Cathrine Regan

RE: EX21.14 - Committee Discussion on Indigenous Council Members

Dear Mayor Chow, Chair, and Members of Executive Committee,

The Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations (FoNTRA) wishes to express its strong opposition to the recommendation of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee to direct the City Manager to initiate the creation of an Indigenous Member of City Council. Such a proposal is undemocratic and contrary to good government.

City Council has 26 elected members consisting of the Mayor and 25 Councillors, further to the Provincial Government's overruling of the City in 2018 to reduce the number of Councillors from 47 to 25.

While we support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) principles, we do not support them overruling the fundamental principle of democracy, which means that all citizens equally participate in electing their representatives. In addition, such a move would likely provide ammunition to the emerging anti-DEI wave emanating from the US, and would therefore be counter-productive to DEI.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.