

## **Considerations for Toronto Membership in the Association francophone des municipalités de l'Ontario**

**Date:** May 21, 2026

**To:** Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee

**From:** Chief of Staff to City Manager and General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report responds to the Economic and Community Development Committee request to report back on the City rejoining the Association francophone des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO). This report recommends that the City join AFMO as an Individual Member for the remainder of 2026 and 2027. The recommendation is consistent with a recent AFMO Board resolution (Attachment 1 to this report), which reaffirms two or more Individual Members (an elected official and a City staff person at minimum) for a period of one year. At the end of 2027, there will be a review of membership outcomes prior to considering a Corporate Membership in 2028.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Chief of Staff to City Manager and General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommend that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to register one staff member for Individual Membership for Toronto in the Association francophone des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) for the remainder of 2026 and up to four Individual Memberships for 2027.
2. City Council direct the City Clerk to canvass Members of Council for interest in appointment to the Association francophone des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) for the 2027 calendar year.
3. City Council direct the City Manager to review the City's Association francophone des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) membership in Q3 of 2027 and assess the merits of pursuing a Corporate Membership in 2028.

4. City Council direct the City Manager, based on the outcome of the review in recommendation three, to facilitate Toronto's Corporate Membership in Association francophone des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) subject to terms satisfactory to the City Manager.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The Association francophone des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) Individual Member fee is \$100 annually per member. The financial impact of proceeding with one membership for staff will be \$100 for the remainder of 2026 and up to \$400 for four individual memberships for 2027. These costs will be accommodated within the 2026 Operating Budget and included in the 2027 operating budget submission.

Recommendation 3 directs the City Manager to review the City's AFMO membership in Q3 of 2027, including consideration of whether a future Corporate Membership is warranted. A Corporate Membership for a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more is currently \$25,000 annually (based on 2026 rates). Any decision to pursue a Corporate Membership and the associated financial impact, will be submitted through a future operating budget submission for Council consideration.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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On April 9, 2026, the Economic and Community Development Committee requested the City Manager to include the information contained in the letter from Councillor Bravo as part of the report back to the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee requested by the Economic and Community Development Committee in Item 2025.EC19.9. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.EC27.11>

On April 8, 2025, the Economic and Community Development Committee requested the City Manager to report back to the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee by the end of 2025 on the status of the City of Toronto rejoining the AFMO. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EC19.9>

On April 7 and 8, 2021, City Council agreed to join the Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) on terms satisfactory to the City Manager <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EX22.12>

On February 23, 2021, The Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee recommended that the Executive Committee instruct the City Manager to report to the July 8, 2021 meeting of the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee on the City of Toronto rejoining L'Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO). <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.FA5.4>

## COMMENTS

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### *Association francophone des municipalites de l'Ontario (AFMO)*

AFMO was founded in 1989 to advocate for the maintenance and improvement of the governance and delivery of municipal services in French and English in areas of Ontario designated under the *French Language Services Act* of Ontario. AFMO states that one of the primary benefits for members is its organization's "core focus of governance and delivery of municipal services in French and English, partially through training, translation services and other opportunities."

AFMO is comprised of 18 municipalities with significant French-speaking community populations. Most of its members are also members of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and according to AMO by-laws, AFMO has a seat on AMO's Board of Directors. The majority of AFMO members have populations under 5,000, with only two being larger than 100,000 (Greater Sudbury and Ottawa).

### *AFMO Governance*

AFMO has a Board of Directors and a President, both duly elected at their Annual General Meeting. The President is the official AFMO spokesperson and chairs the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors represent Northern, Eastern, Central and Southwestern Ontario. Should Toronto pursue AFMO Corporate membership, their by-laws allow for one board member from the City of Toronto. AFMO by-laws further stipulate that all Board members must be fluent in French.

### *Toronto's History with AFMO*

The City of Toronto first joined AFMO in 2000. In 2018 City Council discontinued its membership as part of the City's response to the provincially mandated reduction of Members of Council through Bill 5, Better Local Government Act, 2018. ([2019.CC1.1](#)).

Through a subsequent general review of external organization memberships in 2018, City staff identified a series of concerns with AFMO membership, including AFMO's ability to provide services and supports to the City, compliance with the City's annual financial reporting requirements and organizational governance clarifications. Following a series of meetings with AFMO leadership in 2025 and 2026, staff are confident these concerns have been addressed through AFMO restructuring and leadership changes.

## **Considerations for AFMO Membership**

### *Membership Options*

In October 2025, following an introductory meeting with AFMO's President, AFMO provided staff with an information package that included an overview of their organizational mission and values, membership benefits, and governance and fee structures. AFMO provided further updated information in March 2026.

AFMO offers two memberships options of interest to Toronto:

- **Individual Member:** Unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors, individual memberships are limited to elected municipal officials, municipal managers, and members of French-language advisory committees. (Cost per member is \$100 annually)
- **Corporate Member:** Corporate memberships are for municipalities and the boards of directors of social services in the Northern Region district. Toronto can assume a designated seat on the AFMO Board, though any appointed member must be fluent in French as all AFMO business is conducted in French. (Cost \$25,000 annually based on 2026 membership rates).

Following negotiations with AFMO, staff are recommending Individual Member status for one City staff from Economic Development and Culture, as identified by the City Manager, in 2026. In 2027, membership will include one elected official, one City staff and up to two members of the Toronto Francophone Affairs Advisory Committee (or future iteration or member of Council designate). Individual memberships provide an opportunity to determine if Corporate Member status should be pursued in 2028.

AFMO is supportive of this approach and recently passed a board resolution to this effect (see Attachment 1: Résolution – Exception temporaire pour la représentation de la Ville de Toronto) allowing for Toronto to be an Individual Member for the remainder of 2026 and 2027 and allowing the City to appoint a member to the Board of Directors. At the end of 2027, the City would have to become a Corporate Member to appoint a member to the Board of Directors.

### *Advocacy*

Toronto's participation in AFMO will reinforce Toronto's position as a leader in the municipal sector. It will demonstrate on-going support for French language residents, and through collaboration and joint advocacy, amplify the voices of Francophone communities. While Toronto's intergovernmental advocacy aligns best with the interests of other urban municipalities, the majority of AFMO members have populations under 5,000, with only two being larger than 100,000 (Greater Sudbury and Ottawa). Furthermore, 2021 Census data confirms that only a targeted number of Francophone residents require more intensive French-language support when accessing City information, services or supports - the primary focus of AFMO's activities.

### *Toronto Demographics*

Statistics Canada's 2021 analysis of the City of Toronto Census subdivision<sup>1</sup> found that of those Toronto residents who identified French as their mother tongue, 93.5% also

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<sup>1</sup> Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population, Toronto, City (Census subdivision), Ontario - Language, (<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=6&lang=E&dguid=2021A00053520005>)

identified being multilingual, with an overwhelming number identifying as English-proficient. Multilingual Francophones in Toronto can access City services, policies and information with varying levels of French-language support. The Census also identified 2,550 residents as unilingual Francophones (approximately 0.1% of population). This represents a small number that would benefit from intergovernmental advocacy and programming for intensive municipal French language services.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Résolution – Exception temporaire pour la représentation de la Ville de Toronto