



Deputy Mayor
PAUL AINSLIE
CITY OF TORONTO - COUNCILLOR
WARD 24 SCARBOROUGH-GUILDWOOD

100 QUEEN STREET WEST, SUITE C52
COUNCILLOR_AINSLIE@TORONTO.CA
416-392-4008

150 BOROUGH DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR
COUNCILLOR_AINSLIE_CO@TORONTO.CA
416-396-7222

CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIR, SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CHAIR, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE TORONTO ZOO
PRESIDENT, GOOD ROADS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

Date: June 2, 2026
To: Government Management Committee Members
Re: Animate Nathan Phillips Square

Recommendation:

1. Government Management Committee requests the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, to review the feasibility and associated costs of procuring and deploying benches at Nathan Phillips Square for the 2026 summer season, and report directly to the June 24, 25 and 26 meeting of City Council with recommendations.

Background

I am writing to recommend that staff consider the introduction of bench seating at Nathan Phillips Square for the upcoming summer season similar to <https://vestre.com/us/products/multipurpose-furniture/bloc-sun-bench>

As Council continues to prioritize the animation and increased public use of Nathan Phillips Square, the addition of the benches presents an opportunity to create a more welcoming, vibrant, and accessible civic space.

The benches have been successfully used at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus, where they have proven to be both durable and popular with users. Its design supports casual gathering, and flexible use of public space, aligning with the City's placemaking objectives.

I recognize that there are important operational, security, and financial considerations associated with introducing seating in a high-profile and continuously accessible civic space such as Nathan Phillips Square.

Adding public seating would add to usage of the square, inviting residents and visitors to use the space.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie
Deputy Mayor, City of Toronto, Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood