

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



PROGRAM MAP

City Clerk's Office



The City Clerk's Office mission is to build public trust and confidence in local government. The City Clerk's Office provides the foundation for municipal government in Toronto, realized through three service areas: Elect Government by managing and conducting all aspects of local government elections; Make Government Work by managing government decision-making processes, providing government and official services, and delivering provincially delegated services; and Open Government by managing City information through its lifecycle and delivering corporate print/photocopy and mail services.

This report focuses on performance measures regarding Council support and Freedom of Information requests. Some of the measures are indicative of the organization's performance, e.g. response time for Freedom of Information requests, and are not measures of City Clerk's Office operational efficiency. Other measures provide a window into the City's decision-making processes, with the measure reflective of the City's political governance structure, public and media scrutiny and the political climate at City Hall.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT RESULTS

Question	Indicator/Measure	Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2016 vs. 2015 Results	External Comparison to Other Municipalities (OMBI) By Quartile for 2016	Chart & Page Ref.					
Service/Activity Level Indicators									
How many hours do Council and Committees meet in the City of Toronto	Number of meeting hours – all bodies supported by the City Clerk (Activity Level Indicator)	Decrease Meeting hours of all bodies decreased (activity level indicator)		5.1 pg. 5					
How many freedom of information requests are received?	Number of Formal MFIPPA Requests per 100,000 Population – (Activity Level Indicator)	Increase Number of FOI requests increased (activity level indicator)	High rate of FOI requests compared to others						
Community Impact Measures									
How many people make deputations in the City of Toronto at Community Councils and Committees?	Number of public deputations at Community Council, Standing Committees and Special Committees – (Community Impact)	Decrease Number of deputations decreased	N/A	5.4 pg. 7					
How often is the City's toronto.ca/council web site being accessed for Committee and Council documents?	Number of web page views at <u>www.toronto.ca/council</u> – (Community Impact)	Increase Number of web page views increased	N/A	5.5 pg. 8					
	Custome	er Service/Quality Measures							
How quickly are freedom of information requests responded to?	Percent of Formal MFIPPA Requests Handled Within 30 Days – (Customer Service)	Decrease Rate of responses, within 30 days	4 Lower rate of response within 30 days compared to others (Toronto deals with higher levels of FOI requests and increased complexity of requests)	5.6 5.7 pg. 9/10					
What is the rate of appeals for freedom of information requests?	Percent of Formal MFIPPA Requests that Have Been Appealed – (Quality)	Stable Rate of appeals is stable compared to previous years		5.8 pg. 11					



Question	Indicator/Measure	Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2016 vs. 2015 Results		External Comparison to Other Municipalities (OMBI) By Quartile for 2016		Chart & Page Ref.				
Efficiency Measures										
How much does it cost to respond to a	Operating Cost per	Decrease		1		5.9 5.10				
freedom of information request?	MFIPPA-Request – (Efficiency)	Cost per request decreased		Lower cost per request compared to others		pg. 11/12				
Overall Results		Service Level Indicators (Resources)	Performance Measures (Results)	Service Level Indicators (Resources)	Performance Measures (Results)					
		1- Increased 0 - Stable 1 - Decreased	2 - Favorable 1 - Stable 2 - Unfavorable	1 - 1st quartile 0- 2nd quartile 0 - 3rd quartile 0 - 4th quartile	1 - 1st quartile 0 - 2nd quartile 0 - 3rd quartile 1 - 4th quartile					
		50% stable or increased	60% favorable or stable	100% in 1st and 2nd quartiles	50% in 1st and 2nd quartiles					

For an explanation of how to interpret this summary and the supporting charts, please see the Guide to Toronto's Performance Results. These quartile results are based on a maximum sample size of 15 municipalities.

SERVICE/ACTIVITY LEVELS

The City Clerk's Office manages the decision-making processes of Council and its committees, including creating and publishing agendas and minutes and managing deputations and correspondence.

5.1 – HOW MANY HOURS DO COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES MEET IN THE CITY OF TORONTO?



Chart 5.1 provides data from 2011 to 2016 on the number of meeting hours of bodies supported by the City Clerk's Office.

Chart 5.1 (City of Toronto) Number of Meeting Hours – All Bodies Supported by City Clerk

In 2016, there was a decrease of 10.9% percent in meeting hours from 2015. Consistent with the previous Council term, meeting hours significantly increased as a result of public appointment activities (e.g. nominating panel meetings) during the first year of Council term (2015) and then dropped the following year which is the second year of Council term (2016).

5.2 – HOW MANY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS ARE RECEIVED IN THE CITY OF TORONTO?



Chart 5.2 provides data from 2007 to 2016 on the total number of FOI requests in Toronto and the rate of those requests per 100,000 population.

The results for 2010 and prior years are not based on revised population estimates.

Chart 5.2 (City of Toronto) Number of Formal MFIPPA Requests per 100,000 Population

The public has a right to access City information. One way to make information accessible is by making City information routinely available to the public without the need for a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. City Divisions have published Routine Disclosure Plans. Information is also posted on the City website or published as Open Data.

Another way to access information is to make a FOI request under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).

These numbers do not include FOI requests to City agencies that are separate institutions under MFIPPA, such as the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Transit Commission, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and the Toronto Parking Authority.

In 2016, the number of requests per 100,000 population increased by 6.5%. This increase is the result of continued high level of media and public interest in municipal government. In 2016, there was interest specifically in the various high profile projects currently underway at the City including Rail Deck Park, Scarborough Subway Extension and Uber.

5.3 – HOW DOES THE CITY OF TORONTO'S RATE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?



Chart 5.3 compares Toronto's 2016 rate of FOI request to the median of other Ontario municipalities. Toronto ranks fourth of fifteen (first quartile) in terms of the highest rate of FOI requests. The complexity of requests is not reflected in this measure.

Chart 5.3 (MBN 2016) Number of Formal MFIPPA Requests per 100,000 Population

To provide perspective on the scale of operations, if the absolute number of FOI requests was considered (as opposed to the rate), Toronto's 3,106 requests in 2016 was about 2,900 higher than the fifth highest MBN Canada municipality.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

A fundamental public expectation of municipal government is an open decision-making process, where members of the public can make deputations at Community Council, Standing Committees and Special Committees.



5.4 - HOW MANY PEOPLE MAKE DEPUTATIONS IN TORONTO AT COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES?

Chart 5.4 provides the number of deputations made by members of the public at these meetings between 2010 and 2016.

Chart 5.4 (City of Toronto) Number of Public Deputations at Community Council, Standing Committees and Special Committees



In 2016, the number of registered speakers decreased by 2.25 percent.

A key enabler to keep members of the public informed is the award-winning website <u>www.toronto.ca/council</u>, used to better manage meetings, agendas and minutes for City Council, Committees and Community Councils. Features of the website include:

- A map view of agenda items that relate to specific locations in the City;
- The ability to search for attendance and voting records of Members of Council, enhancing the transparency of government;
- An easier registration process for the public to speak to a committee or to send comments to the Committee;
- The ability to follow how items proceed from Committee or Community Council meetings through to Council meetings;
- Real-time updates on whether and how an item has been addressed during a meeting and the ability to receive updates on decisions in near-real time; and
- A subscription service that allows people to sign up for e-mail updates of meeting agendas and decisions.
- Council and Committee meetings are broadcast live online, streaming on youtube.com/TorontoCityCouncilLive.
- Video of City Council and Committee meetings are available on YouTube following the meeting and indexed by agenda item on toronto.ca/council which allows members of the public and media to quickly find the point in a meeting where an item was considered.



5.5 – HOW OFTEN IS THE CITY'S TORONTO.CA/COUNCIL WEBSITE BEING ACCESSED FOR COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL DOCUMENTS?

Chart 5.5 shows data from 2010 to 2016 on the number of web page views at <u>www.toronto.ca/council</u>, which increased by 5.6% in 2016 compared to 2015.

Chart 5.5 (City of Toronto) Number of Web Page Views at www.toronto.ca/council

M Toronto

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The City Clerk's Office is responsible for managing compliance with MFIPPA. Decisions made by the City Clerk on access to information requests are subject to an independent review (appeal) by the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner.

5.6 – HOW QUICKLY ARE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS RESPONDED IN THE CITY OF TORONTO?



Chart 5.6 provides the rate at which the City of Toronto has been able to comply with the 30-day standard to reply to FOI requests.

Chart 5.6 (City of Toronto) Percent of Formal MFIPPA Requests handled within 30 Days

Results decreased by 25% in 2016 to 57%. This decrease is due to the increase in the public and media's interest in the City's various projects and initiatives, and the Office of the Mayor generally. The almost 30% increase in the number of appeals also affected the City's compliance rate as same staff that respond to requests must also take time to respond to appeals. Staffing levels remain unchanged, while processing more requests and dealing with more appeals.

This measure is reflective of the combined efforts of the City Clerk's Office who process the requests and City divisions that provide the information in response to the requests.



5.7 – HOW DOES THE CITY OF TORONTO'S COMPLIANCE RATE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?



Chart 5.7 (MBNC 2016) Percent of Formal MFIPPA Requests Handled within 30 Days

Chart 5.7 compares Toronto's 2016 rate of compliance, to other municipalities which are plotted as bars relative to the left axis.

One of the factors that influence the timeliness of responses is the volume of FOI requests received. The rate of these FOI request per 100,000 population has been plotted as a line relative to the right axis. Toronto ranks fifteenth of fifteen (fourth quartile) in terms of rate of responses within 30 days at 57%, in part because Toronto has the fourth highest rate of requests per 100,000 population. Complexity of FOI requests in Toronto is also a factor in this ranking.

An observed trend for FOI requests is that they tend to involve multiple City divisions and increasingly involve email records, and as a result are often more complex and more time consuming to review.

5.8 – WHAT IS THE RATE OF APPEALS IN TORONTO FOR FREEDOM OF **INFORMATION REQUESTS?**



Chart 5.8 provides 2011 to 2016 data for Toronto on the rate of appeals made to the **Ontario Information** and Privacy Commissioner. Except in 2014, the results from 2011 to 2016 are stable. ranging between 1.8% and 2.2%.

Chart 5.8 (City of Toronto) Percent of MFIPPA Requests that have been appealed

These figures indicate a high degree of satisfaction with how the City has responded to FOI requests. The City's position is often upheld by the Information & Privacy Commissioner's rulings.

EFFICIENCY

\$200

\$0

\$ cost / request

2009

\$705

One measure of efficiency is the operating cost per MFIPPA-request. These costs do not include the costs of divisions to search for records that are responsive to the request.



5.9 – HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TORONTO'S CITY CLERK'S OFFICE TO RESPOND TO

Chart 5.9 (City of Toronto) Operating Cost per MFIPPA Request

2010

\$599

2011

\$754

Results show 2016 costs decreased by 20.8% compared to 2015, mainly as a result of decrease in corporate allocation costs.

2013

\$596

2014

\$684

2015

\$639

2016

\$506

2012

\$581

request, search for

respond back to the

and gather the requested

information and

requestor.

5.10 – HOW DOES TORONTO'S CITY CLERK'S OFFICE COST TO RESPOND TO A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?



Chart 5.10 compares Toronto City Clerk's 2016

City Clerk's 2016 operating cost per FOI request to other municipalities.

Toronto ranks fourth of fourteen municipalities (first quartile) in terms of the lowest cost per request.

Chart 5.10 (MBNC 2016) Operating Cost for MFIPPA- Request

Toronto was able to achieve a lower cost per request despite being the fourth highest municipality in terms of rate of requests per 100,000 population (5.7).

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2017 PLANNED INITIATIVES

The following initiatives have improved or are expected to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the City Clerk's Office:

2016 Initiatives Completed/Achievements

- Maintained continuity of government by managing the Ward 2 and Ward 42 offices during transition, delivery of the Ward 2 By-Election and orientation of the incoming new Councillor for Ward 2.
- Supported Toronto's diversity in its boards through community outreach, managing 60 public appointments to 21 boards.
- Facilitated decision-making and public access to government through planning, staging and recording 428 meetings of City Council, its Committees and other boards, and registering 2,475 speakers at committees and tribunals, while supporting 87 decision making bodies, an increase of 61% from 54 bodies in 2011.
- Launched strategic model for Protocol services with focus on enhancing support to strengthen Toronto's global profile and international outreach activities.
- Undertook Service Efficiency Review for Information Production Services to modernize how design, off-set print, high-speed copying and mail services are delivered

2017 Initiatives Planned

- Maintain state of readiness to conduct elections.
- Manage post-election processes as required in legislation.
- Review election systems and processes to modernize election delivery.
- Prepare for the 2018 municipal election.
- Support City Council and the Accountability Officers.
- Provide strategic protocol and official services.
- Deliver open and accessible democratic processes to meet or exceed statutory requirements and established performance standards.
- Deliver provincially delegated services to meet/exceed standards.
- Provide direct public service on claims and official mail receipt.
- Lead Open Government by Design.
- Maintain core service levels and meet/exceed established customer service standards.
- Ensure Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) compliance and public access to information.

M Toronto

Factors Influencing the Results of Municipalities

The results of each municipality included in this report can be influenced to varying degrees by factors such as:

- The size of Council support
 - Complexity: the type of meeting and scope of subject matter discussed.
 - Council authority: the amount of delegated decision-making i.e. standing committee vs. Committee as a whole.
 - Size: the number of Councillors and structure.
 - Political climate: whether reports are discussed in detail and the number of recorded votes.
 - Government structure: upper-tier or single-tier.
 - Organizational form: centralized vs. decentralized, i.e. with departments responsible for certain tasks, e.g. agenda preparation.
 - Processes & systems: consent agenda or not; type of meeting; turn-around time for preparation of agenda/minutes and the degree of automation; how long debates are allowed; degree of citizen participation; administrative structure – who generates the reports, i.e. a few Commissioners vs. a large number of department heads.
- Freedom of Information Requests
 - Citizen engagement: degree of interaction with citizens and the amount of citizen trust/distrust of the organization.
 - Contentious issues: whether there are prevailing major issues in the municipality (e.g. major construction projects, road widening, bids for international events, etc.).
 - Nature of requests: media / special interest groups / individuals / businesses.
 Complexity of requests, such as the City's debates on expanding public transit, which may contain
 - o highly proprietary and technical information, i.e., requiring specialist knowledge,
 - o involved legal and financial considerations, requiring substantial consultation,
 - long periods of time, and
 - Other agencies.
 - Organization: the size, administrative structure and culture of the organization; the amount of training provided to municipal staff who handle requests.
 - Practices & policies: responsiveness of the organization to requests; number of routine disclosure policies.
 - Privacy Protection: Growing trend to spend time assessing privacy concerns such as software agreements and privacy breaches.