

**SUBJECT: Accessibility Advisory Committee 2024-2026 Work Plan**

**File Number: ACS2024-OCC-CCS-0079**

**Report to Finance and Corporate Services Committee on 5 November, 2024  
and Council 13 November 2024**

**Submitted on October 4, 2024 by Vania Karam, Chair, Accessibility Advisory  
Committee**

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**Ward: Citywide**

**OBJET: Comité consultatif sur l'accessibilité – plan de travail 2024-2026**

**Numéro de dossier : ACS2024-OCC-CCS-0079**

**Rapport présenté au Comité des finances et des services organisationnel  
le 5 novembre 2024  
et au Conseil le 13 novembre 2024**

**Rapport soumis le 4 octobre 2024 par Vania Karam, Présidente du Comité  
consultatif sur l'accessibilité**

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**Quartier : À l'échelle de la ville**

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Finance and Corporate Services Committee recommend that City Council approve the Accessibility Advisory Committee's 2024-2026 work plan, as detailed in Document 1.**

## RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

**Que le Comité des finances et des services organisationnels recommande au Conseil municipal d'approuver le plan de travail 2024-2026 du Comité consultatif sur l'accessibilité, tel que décrit à la pièce jointe n° 1.**

### BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 12 September 2012, City Council approved a new structure for its [Advisory Committees](#) to ensure that the work of these committees align with the Term of Council Priorities.

In order to determine the advisory committees' work plans for the current Term, departmental staff provided information with respect to the applicable Term of Council Priorities, [approved by Council on December 11, 2019](#), and departmental work plan(s) and identified areas in which the advisory committees could best provide support and advice.

The Office of the City Clerk worked with department staff to standardize work plan documents across advisory committees. This implemented the standard set by Council as part of the [2014-2018 Mid-Term Governance Review report](#), at its meeting of 9 November 2016.

The mandate of the Accessibility Advisory Committee ("Advisory Committee") is to fulfill the duties of a Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee as outlined in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA, 2005) and to provide advice to Council on programs, policies and services provided to persons with disabilities and seniors. There are currently 12 voting members on the Committee. The Accessibility Advisory Committee shall be organized as follows:

- In keeping with the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, a majority the members of the committee shall be residents with disabilities.
- At least two (2) members would be residents who are 60 years of age or older
- As much as practicable, the membership should reflect the City's diverse population.
- The membership shall also include one (1) Member of Council in a liaison capacity.

The Advisory Committee approved the development of its proposed work plan at its meeting of April 16, 2024, for submission to the Finance and Corporate Services

Committee and Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Advisory Committee is recommending a 2-year work plan. The proposed work plan aligns with the 2022-2026 Term of Council Priorities that also fall within the Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference. The proposed work plans also ensures the City meets its obligations to consult with the Committee under the AODA and its *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation*.

Should Council approve the work plan, the Advisory Committee will consider each objective/activity within the work plan's timelines.

Relevant departmental staff will be asked to present the activity/objective at a meeting of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee would have the opportunity to provide oral feedback at the meeting and/or subsequently provide written comments to staff.

The Advisory Committee will report on the progress on its work plan to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee at end-of-Term.

## **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any applicable rural implications are identified in the Council Priorities for each project, as outlined in Document 1.

## **CONSULTATION**

Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and anyone wishing to speak to an item may do so. No members of the public spoke to this item at the Advisory Committee meeting of April 16, 2024.

Department staff were extensively consulted for the development of the Advisory Committee work plan and support its objectives.

## **COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)**

This is a city-wide matter.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS**

This is a report from the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal impediments to approving the recommendations in this report.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no asset management implications associated with this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

Under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with the Disabilities Act, 2005*, municipalities over 10,000 are required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The majority of the Committee members must be persons with disabilities. As per the AODA (section 29.4), the committee shall:

- a) advise the council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards and the preparation of accessibility reports and such other matters for which the council may seek its advice under subsection (5)
- b) review in a timely manner the site plans and drawings described in section 41 of the Planning Act that the committee selects, and
- c) perform all other functions that are specified in the regulations. 2005, c. 11, s. 29 (4).

Additionally, as per section 29.5, the council shall seek advice from the committee on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a building, structure or premises, or part of a building, structure or premises,

- a) that the council purchases, constructs or significantly renovates
- b) for which the council enters into a new lease, or
- c) that a person provides as municipal capital facilities under an agreement entered into with the council in accordance with section 110 of the *Municipal*

*Act, 2001 or section 252 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006. 2005, c. 11, s. 29 (5); 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 1.*

Many aspects of the AAC's workplan serve to fulfill the requirements of the AODA, as noted above. The City also has a legislated duty to consult on areas such as accessibility plans, outdoor play spaces, paths of travel, including rest areas, on-street parking, bus stops and shelters, accessible taxis and recreational trails. Additionally, staff are encouraged to consult with the AAC on master plans and projects that have a high impact on persons with disabilities and older adults.

The Committee encourages and supports the City to ensure all residents can participate fully and without barriers.

### **TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

Applicable Term of Council priorities are identified in Document 1.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 – 2024-26 work plan of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Document 2 – Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

### **DISPOSITION**

The Advisory Committee will work with staff to complete the projects identified in the attached work plan. The Advisory Committee will report to the at end-of-Term on the progress on its work plan.