



## City of Vaughan's 2026 Accessibility Champion Awards

# Student Leadership

This category recognizes a student who demonstrates leadership and commitment to enhancing accessibility for people with disabilities. Nominations should be for initiatives and achievements undertaken in the past two calendar years (2024 and 2025).

Posthumous nominations will be accepted for individuals who have passed within the last two years. For posthumous nominations, the nominee's executor must sign the consent form and indicate they are providing this consent on behalf of the estate.

In the case of nominees under 18 years of age, the nominee's parent or legal guardian must sign the consent and conflict of interest form on behalf of the minor nominee.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for this category, nominees must be currently enrolled in elementary or secondary school in the city of Vaughan or attending post-secondary school with a primary address in Vaughan.

**Nominees may only be nominated for one category.**

Ineligible nominations include:

- elected members of federal, provincial or municipal governments.
- current City of Vaughan committee, board or task force members.
- current City of Vaughan employees.
- current Vaughan Public Libraries employees.
- current members of the City of Vaughan's Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- nominees with a [Conflict of Interest](#) (see below).

## Submission Package Checklist

- Signed consent and conflict of interest form from the nominee or their legal guardian.
- A detailed description of the nominee's work and initiatives in the established category.
- Three to five signed testimonials that speak to the contributions and impact of the individual/group to accessibility in the city of Vaughan.

## Evaluation

The evaluation committee will consider the entirety of the application and the substance of the information contained within. To support the nomination, please consider providing:

*Continued on next page.*

- evidence of work done to increase labour market participation.
- evidence the local community has benefited from the endeavour of the nominee (e.g. advocating inclusion in other areas of the community beyond the labour market).
- demonstrated excellence in minimizing barriers to employment.
- profile or visibility of the nominee within the community as a role model or a leader in accessibility and inclusion.
- evidence of collaboration and partnership results in measurable improvement for people living with disabilities
- innovation to service with measurable improvement related to access and inclusion for people living with a disability.
- advocacy with measurable improvement related to access and inclusion for people living with a disability.
- description of a product invented with descriptions of intended impact for people living with disabilities.

## Testimonials

Nominations require three to five signed testimonials (electronic signature or scanned copy of the signed letter) of support that speak to the individual's contribution and their impact on accessibility within Vaughan. Each testimonial will be weighted separately. Testimonials must be from individuals who are not the nominator. The testimonial writers should:

- know the nominee.
- be able to explain the nominee's work and its impacts.
- support the nomination.

Testimonials should demonstrate excellence as it relates to accessibility in one or more of the following categories:

- leadership.
- innovation to service for people living with disabilities.
- invention of a product for people with disabilities.
- collaboration and partnership.
- public education and awareness campaigns or activities.
- furthering the development of accessibility.
- impact on the community and individuals with disabilities.

## Additional information

If you believe any additional information highlights the nominee's contribution, there is a section in the application to upload this material. This may include, but is not limited to, news articles, committee work or project summaries.



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### Consent and Conflict of Interest Declaration

(To be filled out by the nominee or their legal guardian)

To complete the nomination process and to forward your nomination for consideration, your consent is required for the following purposes:

1. The collection of your personal information from a nominator or an individual chosen by the party making the nomination (hereinafter referred to as "nominator"). Your nominator will provide testimonials that include information about you, including but not limited to, your story, accomplishments, professional achievements, exemplary standards and/or any other information needed to meet the merit criteria.
2. Have your name, reason for nomination and/or information collected shared publicly on the City of Vaughan's website and promote the awards via social media should you receive the Award.

Your participation in this nomination process is voluntary. Should you refuse to provide your personal information or your consent, you will not be considered for the Award.

If you do not wish to provide your consent or be considered for the Award, please notify your nominator immediately so your name can be removed from consideration.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I have read and understand the  
NAME

information contained in this document and provide my consent for the collection and use of my personal information in support of my nomination and subsequent consideration for the City's Accessibility Champion Awards. I further acknowledge and understand if I am chosen as a recipient of the Award, I agree to have my name, reason for nomination and/or information collected made public.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to declare any conflicts of interests as  
NAME

it pertains to my nomination and subsequent consideration for the City's Accessibility Champion Awards in accordance with [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, RSO 1990, c M.50.](#)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**For nominees under 18 years of age, parent's/legal guardian's consent is required:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I am providing  
NAME

this consent on behalf of the minor being nominated.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_