

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2015**

Item 5, Report No. 44, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 15, 2015.

#### **5 REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Chief Human Resources Officer, dated December 1, 2015:

##### **Recommendation**

The Chief Human Resources Officer recommends:

1. That the revised Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

##### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, and Objective 4.1:

- To foster a City with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

##### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact.

##### **Communications Plan**

In consultation with the Office of Corporate Communications, the revised Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be communicated through the City's external website.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the revised Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

##### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Accessibility is a priority in the City's strategic plan "Vaughan Vision 2020." The City of Vaughan is dedicated to being an accessible and inclusive City not because it is the law, but more importantly it is the right thing to do and is good for business. Accessibility benefits all Vaughan residents and visitors.

The City of Vaughan provides a number of programs and services for people with disabilities and regularly identifies and creates new opportunities to reflect the diverse and growing program needs of the community. Opportunities for persons with disabilities are vast and include the creative arts, health and wellness, life and social skills, performing arts, sports and leadership programs.

The City's Accessibility Plan 2013-2018 outlines corporate and departmental objectives and achievements related to addressing accessibility issues and services at a corporate level.

The barriers persons with disabilities face are more prevalent as a result of the environment in which they live in, rather than their impairment. Obstacles to participation stem more from the

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environment in which people live than from within the individual's perception of their abilities. These barriers can be prevented, reduced or eliminated.

The inclusivity of citizens with disabilities is a corporate-wide vision shared by Vaughan Council and staff as identified in Vaughan's corporate strategic plan. The City plays an important role in ensuring access for residents with disabilities and through the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC). The role of the VAAC is to advise Council to support the City's work in identifying and removing barriers to lay the foundation for a barrier-free, inclusive community.

The VAAC approved the Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference at its meeting on September 29, 2015.

Some of the highlights of the initiatives supported by the VAAC are the following:

- Assisted the Technical Advisory Committee in the completion of the multi-year accessibility plan,
- Assisted with the City's compliance of the AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation;
- Assisted in the planning of events for National Access Awareness Week.

#### **Relationship to Term of Council Strategy Map (2014-2018)**

This report supports the Vaughan Vision 2020 initiatives of Service Excellence, specifically to support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community and continue to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens.

#### **Regional Implications**

There are no regional implications.

#### **Conclusion**

The City of Vaughan is dedicated to being an accessible and inclusive City not because it is the law, but more importantly it is the right thing to do and is good for business. Accessibility benefits all Vaughan residents and visitors. The revised Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will allow the Committee to function in a more effective manner as it outlines objectives, member accommodation and member responsibility.

#### **Attachment**

1. Revised Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

#### **Report prepared by:**

Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility and Diversity Coordinator, ext. 8641

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)