

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2013

Item 26, Report No. 52, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 10, 2013.

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**PROCLAMATION - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - DECEMBER 3, 2013**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated November 26, 2013:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture and the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, recommends:

1. That Council proclaim December 3, 2013, International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Vaughan; and,
2. That the presentation at Council on December 10, 2013, by Mr. Jeff Adams, five-time Paralympian and six-time World Champion in wheelchair sports, be received.

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

Costs associated with the promotion and the delivery of this event will be covered by the 2013 Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee's approved operating budget.

Communications Plan

The City of Vaughan, in cooperation with the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) will communicate the observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities through the City's website and public service announcement.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities December 3, 2013 date as proclaimed by the United Nations and present an outline of the initiatives.

Background - Analysis and Options

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is a United Nations sanctioned day that aims to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being. The day seeks to increase awareness of the benefits of the integration of people with disability in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. The theme for this year is **"Break barriers, open doors for an inclusive society for all."**

In honour of IDPD, Mr. Jeff Adams, five-time Paralympian and six-time World Champion in wheelchair sports, will address Council at their meeting on December 10, 2013. He will speak on accessibility achievements and the significance of celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

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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 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.

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

- Assisted the Technical Advisory Committee in the completion of annual Accessibility Plans and the compliance report with the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the Accessibility for Customer Service Regulation, O. Reg. 429/07;
- Made recommendations related to the need for improved accessibility services;
- Made recommendations as they relate to the purchase of assistive devices and technology in Recreation and Culture and Access Vaughan; and
- Hosted the Honourable David C. Onley, O. Ont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario for National Access Awareness Week on June 7, 2013 at City Hall.

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. Other City accomplishments include the funding support for low income residents with special needs through the Vaughan RecAssist program and an increase in number of partnerships with Vaughan's community organizations. Lastly, Vaughan's Accessibility Plan outlines corporate and departmental objectives related to addressing accessibility issues and services at a corporate level.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report supports the Vaughan Vision 2020 initiatives of Service Excellence, specifically to "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness" and "Preserve our Heritage and Support Diversity, Arts and Culture."

The findings are consistent with City of Vaughan policies and practices and factor in consultation with the VAAC and the analysis of the proposal described in this report.

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications.

Conclusion

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is recognized in communities across the world. The theme "Break barriers, open doors for an inclusive society for all" reminds people that persons with disabilities need to be part of the decision-making process for programs and services in order to create a barrier-free community.

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Attachments

N/A

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