



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Finance and Administration Committee
From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: 2023-A-12
Date: September 12, 2023

Subject:

Appointment of new members to the Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Recommendation:

That the Finance and Administration Committee recommends to Regional Council:

That the following people be appointed to the Durham Accessibility Advisory Committee:

Ms. Priya Chandwani – Professional from the stakeholder community; and

Mr. Lyle Williams – Person with a disability.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The Accessibility Advisory Committee's (AAC) Terms of Reference allow for an eleven-member committee. The purpose of this report is to facilitate two appointments for the vacant positions for a person with a disability and a professional from the stakeholder community.

2. Background

2.1 Under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA), Durham Region is obligated to form an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). A second piece of legislation, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) was proclaimed in 2005. However, the first Act was not repealed, and therefore, Durham must comply with both pieces of legislation. The requirement to have an AAC is still in effect.

3. Appointment of new members

- 3.1 The application process for the current nominees is the same as was for the original committee. After completing an application form, an interview was held with each applicant. The selection criteria used to determine suitability to serve on the committee are:
- a. Knowledge of disability issues
 - b. Experience with committees, volunteerism, community work
 - c. Excellent communication skills
 - d. Team building and collaboration skills
 - e. Demonstrated commitment to projects/teams
 - f. Ability to build trust and relationships.

- 3.2 Every effort is made to ensure that there is representation from people with a variety of disabilities, lived experiences and from different professional bodies.

The term of membership will correspond with the term of Regional Council and if a member resigns the Region will seek a replacement in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

Following Council's appointment of the membership, the first AAC meeting the new members will attend will be on November 28, 2023.

4. Relationship to the Strategic Plan

- 4.1 This report aligns with the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 2 – Community Vitality, specifically Priority 2.5 – Build a healthy, inclusive, age-friendly community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

5. Professional from the Stakeholder Community Appointment

- 5.1 Ms. Priya Chandwani is a resident of Whitby and works as the Director for Digital Accessibility and AODA Program, Global Wealth Management at Scotiabank. Ms. Chandwani has demonstrated a wealth of knowledge in running accessibility related initiatives and working closely with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion groups at Scotiabank. Her work involves actively engaging people with disabilities to understand their digital accessibility experiences and communicating these experiences to drive innovation and action in the services provided. She brings many years of industry experience and her expertise in the global business world will contribute strategic planning skills to the AAC.
- 5.2 Ms. Chandwani meets the eligibility criteria for membership in accordance with the AAC Terms of Reference.

6. Person with a Disability Member Appointment

- 6.1 Mr. Lyle Williams is a resident of Pickering and is an Adaptive Technology Specialist at Centennial College, supporting the accommodation needs of people with disabilities. His work requires a deep understanding of disability in combination with identifying appropriate accommodations to support a person in their education and life. Mr. Williams is passionate about equity-based work to support the inclusion, full participation, and accessibility of people to build healthy and thriving environments for equity-deserving groups in Durham Region. He is a person living with an invisible disability. He has received several awards for his work and brings years of experience from several professional committees to the AAC.
- 6.2 Mr. Lyle Williams meets the eligibility criteria for membership in accordance with the AAC Terms of Reference.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 It is recommended that Ms. Priya Chandwani and Mr. Lyle Williams be appointed as members on the AAC.

8. Attachments

- 8.1 Attachment #1: Priya Chandwani's Resume **Under Separate Cover**
Attachment #2: Lyle Williams Resume **Under Separate Cover**

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer