



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Community Growth and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-CG-5
Date: March 4, 2025

Subject:

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Youth Membership Appointment

Recommendation:

That the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That Chazz DeAbreu be appointed to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee as its Youth Member and that they be so advised; and
 - B) That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee and Pickering High School.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that Chazz DeAbreu, a grade 11 student at Pickering High School in Ajax, be appointed to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) as its Youth Member.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council approved DECAC Terms of Reference allows for the appointment of one Youth Member, who is a secondary school student in grade 10, 11 or 12 in Durham Region. This Youth Member can sit for a maximum of three years, or until

they are no longer in high school, whichever comes first.

3. Membership Appointment Process

- 3.1 In accordance with the DECAC Terms of Reference, a Public Service Announcement was posted to the Region's social media platforms to advertise that a Youth Member for DECAC was being sought. Application information was also provided to each school board and disseminated to high school principals. Two expressions of interest were received and carefully considered by Community Growth Division staff.
- 3.2 Chazz DeAbreu is a student at Pickering High School that plans to pursue post-secondary studies in Environmental/Earth Sciences. Chazz has extensive volunteer experience, including two years with the Claremont Nature Centre in Pickering and participation in the Conservation Youth Corps program.
- 3.3 As required, letters of reference were provided from Chazz's school and parent/guardian. These letters highlight Chazz's strengths and interests in the environmental sector, and their ability to make a positive contribution to DECAC. A summary of all applicants for this position has been provided in Attachment #1 (under separate cover) for consideration by Community Growth and Economic Development Committee.
- 3.4 The time commitment for a youth member is approximately three hours per month. At their school's discretion, this time qualifies as community involvement hours. Students are required to have a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement in order to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

4. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 4.1 The DECAC 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan was provided in [Report #2025-CG-2](#).

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic directions and pathways in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Under the Strategic Direction, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action, Pathway E5 – Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands; and

- b. Under the Strategic Direction, Strong Relationships, Pathway S1 – Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Chazz DeAbreu, a grade 11 student at Pickering High School in Ajax, meets the requirements for appointment as the Youth Member on DECAC. It is recommended that Chazz DeAbreu be appointed to this role.

7. Attachments

Attachment #1: DECAC Youth Member Nomination Summary (under separate cover).

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Nancy Taylor for
Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer