



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Finance and Administration Committee
From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: #2023-A-5
Date: Feb 14, 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:

Mr. Jim McEwen – Community member; and

Mr. Adam Blum – community member.

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 positions of community member.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA), Durham Region was 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 However, the first Act was not repealed, and therefore, Durham must comply with both pieces of legislation.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 March 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. Community Member Appointment

5.1 Mr. Adam Blum is a resident of Port Perry and owns an immigration consulting firm. Mr. Blum has demonstrated a wealth of knowledge related to existing barriers for people with disabilities in his community and the Region. He has extensive knowledge of Durham Region programs gained through his experience as having two family members with disabilities and is the primary caregiver for one of his parents.

5.2 Mr. Blum has been involved in committee work and professional boards in the community such as the Education & Standards Committee for Immigration Consultants and the Schulich Open Arms Committee at York University. He is passionate about innovation and offering practical advice on how to improve access to supports and information for newcomers and people with disabilities.

His work involves providing expert advice for individuals and corporations regarding issues concerning Canadian immigration.

- 5.3 Mr. Blum meets the eligibility criteria for membership in accordance with the AAC Terms of Reference.

6. Community Member Appointment

- 6.1 Mr. Jim McEwen is a resident of Bowmanville and is a retired Professional Engineer. He was a designated municipal Engineer consultant for the Township of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge. He is the President for the Durham Region Stroke Recovery Group and has extensive committee experience. Mr. McEwen has a passion for improving accessibility in Durham Region and is a person living with a disability. He is a strong advocate for improved policy for public services and local businesses to meet the AODA requirements set out for 2025.

- 6.2 Mr. Jim McEwen meets the eligibility criteria for membership in accordance with the AAC Terms of Reference.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 It is recommended that Mr. Adam Blum and Mr. Jim McEwen be appointed as community members on the AAC.

8. Attachments

- 8.1 Attachment #1: Adam Blum's Resume **Under Separate Cover**

Attachment #2: Jim McEwen's Resume **Under Separate Cover**

Recommended for Presentation to Committee:

Original Signed By

Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer