

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL    OCTOBER 1, 2002**

### **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends that Council appoint an Accessibility Advisory Committee.

#### **Purpose**

To appoint an Accessibility Advisory Committee as required by the Ontarians With Disabilities Act.

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

Council at its meeting held on August 26, 2002 directed amongst other things, that the City Clerk advertise to seek individuals to sit on an Accessibility Advisory Committee to be established by the City (attachment #1). An advertisement was run on August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup> on the "City Page" (attachment #2). In addition letters were sent to the following organizations inviting them to submit applications from interested and qualified persons:

- York South Association for Community Living
- Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy
- Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped
- Canadian Paraplegic Association
- Association of Differently-Abled People Together
- Canadian Hearing Society
- Community Living Newmarket/Aurora District
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind
- Community Support Housing
- Ontario March of Dimes – York Region Chapter
- Future Abilities and Creative Employment (FACE); and
- Integra Foundation

To date four applications have been submitted for Council's consideration (attachment).

As reported earlier, staff will be reporting in the fall on a mandate and operating procedures for the Committee. The Ontarians With Disabilities Act (the Act) mandates that a majority of the Committee members must be persons with disabilities. The Act defines a disability to mean,

- a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,
- b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability,
- c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- d) a mental disorder, or

- e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*; (“handicap”)

**Conclusion**

Council’s direction on persons to be appointed to the City’s Accessibility Advisory Committee is requested.

**Attachments**

- 1. Extract from Council Meeting – Item 40, Committee of the Whole Report No. 54
- 2. Advertisement
- 3. Applications – Mayor and Members of Council only (under separate cover)

**Report prepared by:**

J. D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. Leach  
City Clerk

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## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2002

Item 40, Report No. 54, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on August 26, 2002.

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#### ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated August 19, 2002:

##### Recommendation

The City Clerk in consultation with the Commissioner of Planning and the Director of Legal Services recommends:

- 1) That the City of Vaughan establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee;
- 2) That the City Clerk be directed to advertise for members to sit on the Committee and to liaise with organizations serving and representing disabled persons in the community for the purpose of soliciting membership on the Committee: and
- 3) That staff be directed to report on a mandate and operating procedure for the Committee and report further in the Fall 2002 regarding other requirements of the Act.

##### Purpose

The Province on June 26, 2002 proclaimed sections 11 and 12 of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (the Act) to be in effect September 30, 2002. This section requires municipalities to prepare an accessibility plan each year and where there are 10,000 or more residents to establish Accessibility Advisory Committees as required by the Act. The purpose of this report is to seek a Council directive to advertise for persons qualified to be considered for membership on the Committee.

##### Background - Analysis and Options

The purpose of the Act is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in life in the Province of Ontario. The legislation defines barriers as anything that prevents full participation in all aspects of society due to a disability including: physical or architectural barriers, information or communication barriers, attitudinal barriers, technological barriers, policies or practices. A disability covered by the legislation includes a physical disability, defect, illness, muteness, reliance on a device or a guide dog, a learning disability, a mental impairment, a mental disorder, or an injury or disability for which WSIB benefits are received, etc.

##### ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Council is required to prepare an Accessibility Plan to address the identification, removal and prevention of barriers in the municipality's bylaws, policies, programs, practices and services. The Accessibility Plan shall include:

1. A report on the measures taken to remove barriers.

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Item 40, CW Report No. 54 – Page 2

2. A report on the measures in place to ensure the municipality assesses its actions to determine their effect on persons with disabilities.
3. A list of the bylaws, policies, programs, practices and services that the municipality will review in the upcoming year to identify barriers.
4. A report on the measures that the municipality will undertake in the upcoming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers.
5. Other information as may be required by provincial regulations.

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Council is required to appoint an Accessibility Advisory Committee, which shall:

1. Have a majority of members who are persons with disabilities.
2. Be responsible to advise Council each year regarding the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its Accessibility Plan.
3. Review in a timely manner, the site plans, drawings approved by the City under section 41 of the Planning Act. The committee selects which drawings it will review.
4. Perform other functions as specified in the provincial regulations.

**Conclusion**

In order to establish the required Accessibility Advisory Committee by the end of September it is necessary to advertise and seek persons qualified to be appointed to the Committee immediately. In addition a further report is required to address the mandate and operating procedures for the Committee. The further report will also address other changes required by the legislation.

**Attachments**

None

**Report prepared by:**

John D. Leach



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Attachment 2

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC  
WISHING TO SERVE ON THE  
CITY OF VAUGHAN ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Council of the City of Vaughan invites applications from members of the public who are interested in serving on the City of Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee. Council is seeking volunteers from across the Municipality to serve on the Committee. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

**The main purposes and activities of the Accessibility Advisory Committee are:**

- To advise Council on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its annual accessibility plan;
- To review site plans of and advise on accessibility issues relating to identified buildings within the City of Vaughan; and
- To advise Council on other accessibility related issues within the Municipality.

**Applicant eligibility:**

- must be a resident of the City of Vaughan
- over the age of 18 years
- not employed by the Municipality
- under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, the majority of committee members shall include people with disabilities

**Submission of Applications:**

If you wish to be considered for appointment to the Accessibility Advisory Committee, please complete an application form available at the Clerk's Department at the Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, and at City of Vaughan Libraries and Community Centres.

Applications will be received by the undersigned until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2002. For further information please contact:

John D. Leach, City Clerk  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario  
L6A 1T1  
Tel: (905) 832-8504

The logo for the City of Vaughan, featuring a stylized 'V' with 'City of' in small text above it and 'Vaughan' in a large, bold, serif font.

*The City Above Toronto*

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APPLICATION FOR  
APPOINTMENT TO THE  
CITY OF VAUGHAN  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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SEPTEMBER 2002

Please complete the following application for the CITY OF VAUGHAN ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE and submit to:	
City of Vaughan 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1	Telephone: (905) 832-8504 Facsimile: (905) 832-8535
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> An Elector <input type="checkbox"/> A Canadian Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Years of Age or Older <input type="checkbox"/> I am a person with a disability. <input type="checkbox"/> I am familiar with issues affecting people with disabilities.	
<b>PERSONAL DATA</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	
Name	
Address	Postal Code
Telephone (Home)	(Bus)                                      (Email)
<b>WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE?</b>	
<b>PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE</b> State in detail, your experience: work related, community service oriented, or other volunteer activities which illustrate the interest, skills or abilities you may contribute. Please attach a current resume if available.	
<b>REFERENCES</b> By applying your signature to this application, you authorize the Municipality to contact the following persons or organizations and authorize them to disclose to the Municipality any required information.	
<b>Name/Please State Association With Person</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>
<b>APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<small>Personal information on this form is collected under the legal authority of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M.45, as amended. This information will be used to process applications to determine an applicant's suitability to be appointed and serve on various statutory and non-statutory committees. Questions about this collection should be directed to the City Clerk, City of Vaughan, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1, (905) 832-8504.</small>	
<b>The deadline for receipt of applications by the City Clerk is <u>Wednesday, September 11, 2002 at 4:30 p.m.</u> Please submit applications to: J. D. Leach, City Clerk, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1 or by FAX at (905) 832-8535. (NOTE: Submissions after the deadline will not be accepted.)</b>	