

Minutes

Accessibility Advisory Committee

February 26, 2025

Electronic Meeting

Members: E. Jolliffe, B. Barra-Berger, R. DiGiovanni, S. Foglia, L. Gold,
A. Ho, L. Hulme-Smith, K. Kedzierski, B. Keshen, A. Musavi,
T. Vegh, S. Wollin

Staff: K. Abbas, C. Bee, J. Brezer, S. Cholewa, C. Clark, J. Dolly,
K. Doyle, A. Griepsma, J. Hancock, K. Heathcote, M. Herder,
L. Johnston, T. Kirkwood, S. Maio, V. Navolsky, E. Straughan,
B. Wu

A. Call to Order

Regional Councillor Vegh called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Regional Chair Jolliffe, new ex-officio member of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, introduced himself and thanked the committee members for their work and dedication.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Regional Councillor Vegh made the following acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

C. Election of Vice Chair

Committee appointed Robert DiGiovanni as Vice Chair of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee for the year 2025.

D. Disclosures of Interest

None

E. Accessibility Updates

E.1 Update on Accessibility Activities

Committee received the following verbal updates from Khairon Abbas, Manager (Acting), Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Indigenous Relations, People, Equity and Culture, Office of the CAO:

Pink Shirt Day

February 26, 2025 is Pink Shirt Day, which symbolizes taking a stand against bullying and advocates for kindness and inclusion.

Accessibility Advisory Committee Membership Updates

- Regional Chair Jolliffe, by virtue of his position as the new Regional Chair, is the new ex-officio member of this committee.
- Kathleen Kedzierski is a new member of this committee.
- The following staff are currently in acting positions:
 - Khairon Abbas, Acting Manager, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility
 - Valentyna Navolskyy, Acting Lead, Accessibility
 - Brandon Wu, Acting Senior Policy Specialist

Annual Review Meetings

The following updates are in response to feedback provided by committee members at annual review meetings:

- As directed by Regional Council, advisory committees will continue meeting virtually.
- Due to public meeting requirements under the *Municipal Act, 2001* the chat feature on the Zoom meetings is disabled. However, members are welcome to email or text comments or questions to aoda@york.ca which staff can relay during the meeting.

2025 National AccessAbility Week Professional Development Subcommittee

- National AccessAbility Week takes place during the week of May 26 to June 1, 2025
- York Region will be hosting an AAC Professional Development Forum at 17150 Yonge Street, Newmarket on May 28, 2025.
- A planning committee will be set up consisting of members of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee and members of local accessibility advisory committees.

Focus Group Update

Khairon thanked several members of the committee for their participation in the following focus groups and opportunities:

- Public Health public-facing dashboards
- York Regional Police Equity Audit consultation
- Mosaic House and Unionville Commons Seniors Hub
- Q'Straint Quantum and Q-Pod Accessibility Securement Systems

Customer Service Letter Submission

In early January 2025, York Region submitted a response to the Standards Development Committee regarding initial recommendations to the Customer

Service Standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

2024 Status Report

York Region's 2024 Accessibility Status Report is posted on york.ca and includes updates on actions and initiatives implemented in 2024.

Newmarket AAC Tour

Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee members toured the York Region Administrative Building at 17150 Yonge Street in November 2024 and learned about the construction of the building. The tour included stops and discussion around signage, universal washrooms, wayfinding and accessible features available in court rooms.

F. Presentations

F.1 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region

Committee received the presentation by Jenna Dolly, Program Manager, Community Development and Jennifer Hancock, Community Development Program Specialist, Strategies and Partnership Branch, Community and Health Services.

Committee recessed at 5:10 p.m. and reconvened at 5:20 p.m.

F.2 Infectious Diseases Dashboard

Committee received the presentation by Scott Cholewa, Manager, Carina Bee, Epidemiologist and Leah Johnston, Senior Statistical Data Analyst, Infectious Disease and Control Division (IDCD), Public Health Branch, Community and Health Services.

G. Deputations

None

H. Communications

None

I. Other Business

None

J. Adjournment

The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.