



## Minutes

### Accessibility Advisory Committee

February 18, 2026

Electronic Meeting

Members: B. Barra-Berger, C. Davies, N. Davison, R. DiGiovanni, S. Foglia,  
L. Gold, A. Ho, L. Hulme-Smith, K. Kedzierski, A. Musavi,  
V. Spatafora, T. Vegh, S. Wollin

Staff: K. Abbas, S. Agnew, M. Backs, M. Bolton, K. Doyle, K. Heathcote,  
M. Herder, E. Kelly, T. Kirkwood, K. Lam, S. Maio, M. Miller,  
V. Navolskyy, L. Rahman, J. Schlosser, E. Straughan,  
C. Szarmes, C. Terin, K. Tharumakulasingam, T. Witwicki, B. Wu

Other: D. MacDonald, York Regional Police

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#### A. Call to Order

Regional Councillor Vegh called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

#### B. Land Acknowledgement

Accessibility Unit staff 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 2026.

**D. Disclosures of Interest**

None

**E. Accessibility Updates**

**E.1 Update on Accessibility Activities**

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

York Region recognizes February as both Black History Month and Chinese Heritage Month.

**Compliance attestation and report**

The 2025 Accessibility Compliance Report is now available on York.ca.

**2025 Accessibility Status Report posted**

York Region's 2025 Accessibility Status Report is now posted on York.ca.

**2025 Annual Review Survey Summary**

Accessibility Unit staff are continuing to explore additional feedback and suggestions and will keep the Committee informed.

**2024 National AccessAbility Week Professional Development**

**Subcommittee call-out**

York Region will be hosting an Accessibility Advisory Committee Professional Development Forum at 17150 Yonge Street, Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

**Ministry Staffing Announcement**

Effective February 2, 2026, Meenu Sikand has been appointed as the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Infrastructure Accessibility and Special Projects within the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

### **AODA Leads Update**

Accessibility Unit staff informed the Committee of recent changes to the AODA Leads for the Customer Service and Employment Standards. Appreciation was extended to the outgoing Leads, Michelle Herder, Program Manager, Customer Experience Innovation and Kavi Tharumakulasingam, Lead, Health & Safety.

## **F. Presentations**

### **F.1 York Region's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan**

Committee received the presentation by Christine Szarmes, Program Manager, Housing Strategy, Community and Health Services.

### **F.2 Proposed Recruitment Process for the 2027 to 2030 Term of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Committee received the presentation by Valentyna Navolskyy, Lead, Accessibility and Brandon Wu, Senior Policy Specialist, Accessibility, People, Equity and Culture Branch, Office of the CAO.

## **G. Deputations**

None

## **H. Communications**

None

## **I. Other Business**

- Committee member Ahsan Musavi raised concern with the snow removal on pedestrian crosswalks at intersections which was referred to staff.
- The next virtual meeting of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled on April 22, 2026 at 4 p.m.

## **J. Adjournment**

The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.