

Accessibility Advisory Committee

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT REPORTING

Appointment:	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Classification:	Advisory Committee
Councillor(s):	Councillor Keren Tang and Jo-Anne Wright
Reporting Period:	November 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Mandate

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) has the mandate to provide policy advice to City Council and City Administration. The Committee's priority areas are to:

1. Advise City Council and City Administration on policies, potential policies, or changes to existing policies that affect access and inclusion for persons with disabilities.
2. Participate in and support events and opportunities that enhance overall awareness of inclusion and accessibility issues in Edmonton.
3. Engage with broader communities of persons with disabilities in a meaningful way, and ensure that the AAC has the necessary information to undertake its advisory role.
4. Educate City Council, City Administration and the public on issues and best practices around inclusion and accessibility.

Background

As an advisory body to Edmonton City Council, the AAC seeks to understand the unique accessibility and inclusivity needs of the Edmonton community, and how these needs relate to City Council's strategy and policy direction.

Shared priorities and advocacy areas

Comment on any shared priorities and advocacy areas between the civic agency and the City of Edmonton.

The AAC undertakes a significant role in helping City Council address the manner in which its strategies and policies impact people with disabilities and provides advice on best practices for engaging Edmontonians with disabilities. Some of the joint efforts include, but not limited to:

- Policy C602 Accessibility for people with disabilities

- Corporate accessibility plan
- Vehicle for hire policy development (jointly with other advisory committees such as WAVE)
- Snow and ice policy
- Sidewalks and missing links

Report on activities, projects, and outcomes

During the 4-year budget discussion, the Chair of AAC spoke to City Council about:

- Enhanced Snow and Ice Control Service Standards
- The Sidewalk Maintenance Strategy
- Permanent funding for On-Demand transit service Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention; and
- The Community Investment Operating Grant.

In addition to weekly committee meetings that focus on policy advice and strategic priorities, the committee also engages in external advocacy work such as the recent letter in support of DATS drivers, and connects with other disability advocacy groups and efforts such as the provincial campaign for wage increase for workers in the disability sector; reindexing the AISH payments; participation in Voice of Albertans with Disabilities; and Alberta Ability Network Human Rights Table.

Upcoming events and milestones

The AAC is currently in strategic planning, which will be finalized in the near term. Some of the priorities looking ahead include:

- Guide inclusive and accessible housing policy (i.e., visitable housing)
- Monitor & Advise on Open Spaces
- Advocate, Collaborate, Advise On Recreational Programs For Disabled Expression
- Recommend (Monitor, Engage, Participate) Disabled Representation In Mayors' Awards/Awards Of Excellence

The AAC always strives for greater outreach and community engagement, including leverage committee resources in social media and promotion.

Evaluation

It is recommended that the City of Edmonton continue to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to advance municipal priorities and areas of shared interest including building a more inclusive city for all.