

February 28, 2023  
Mollie Everett, Office of the City Clerk  
City of Edmonton  
3rd Floor City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW  
Edmonton AB T5J 2R7

Re: Proposed amendments to bylaw 14126 - Youth Council Bylaw

At the February 1, 2023 City of Edmonton Youth Council General Assembly CEYC passed a motion [item 3.3] to approve the VCM Application Recommendations for 2023/2024. These recommendations require an update to bylaw 14126 to allow CEYC to conduct interviews and make appointment selections, similar to how the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton does recruitment and appointment. The Office of the City Clerk will continue to manage the recruitment posting and collection of applications, and will work with CEYC to implement the other recommendations where possible.

CEYC chairs and committee members understand the committee needs, current demographic makeup of the committee, skills and perspectives that are missing at a committee level. Many applicants are new to volunteerings, applications, interviews, and civic engagement, and being interviewed by a panel of their peers can be a more inclusive and comfortable process for them. The panel is also better equipped to answer specific questions about the committee's operation and expectations.

A motion was passed at the May 4, 2022 General Assembly [item 5.1] to move from a Chair/Vice-chair model to a Co-Chair model with External and Internal Co-Chairs who will share the leadership role and responsibilities. The Co-Chair model is a method of ensuring an equal distribution of work between the Chairs, consequently removing notions of hierarchy within council and officially recognizing the efforts from both the executive members (i.e. honoraria). The Co-Chair model allows for a sharing of responsibilities which improves efficiency and ensures the smooth running of council through any and all unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, this model ensures a fair evaluation of Voting Committee Member performance (under the current model the Chair evaluates themselves). CEYC is currently functioning under this model informally, but the current bylaw specifies a chair and vice-chair.

Sincerely,  
Achyutha Surukanti & Reetu Arvikar