

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** Autism Society Representative – Paul Walsh

**Date Prepared:** May 5, 2022

**Report To:** Inclusion Advisory Committee

**Councillor and Role:** Debbie Hanlon, Inclusion Advisory Committee

**Ward:** N/A

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## **Decision/Direction Required:**

Direction is sought from the Inclusion Advisory Committee (IAC) with respect to the retention of Mr. Paul J. Walsh on the Committee as the representative for the Autism Society of NL (ASNL).

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

The Autism Society recently appointed Mr. Paul Walsh as their representative on the Inclusion Advisory Committee. Subsequently, it was questioned whether or not Mr. Walsh would be in a conflict of interest by serving on the Committee as he is also the Chairperson of the St. John's Transportation Commission (SJTC). The issue of public transportation is commonly discussed as part of IAC's agenda, particularly as it relates to advocacy of accessible public transportation by both Metrobus and GoBus, both of which fall under the purview of the St. John's Transportation Commission. Mr. Walsh has offered his resignation to the Commission on this basis so he could become a fully participating member of the Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Subsequently, Council agreed that should Mr. Walsh want to retain both positions, he has been directed to bring the conflict of interest to the attention of both the SJTC and the IAC at your next scheduled meetings so that you are informed of the issue and approve of Mr. Walsh's continued service to both bodies provided that:

- Mr. Walsh recuses himself from speaking or voting on matters that relate to the services of the SJTC at meetings of the IAC; and
- Mr. Walsh recuses himself from speaking or voting on matters that relate to IAC's accessible transportation positions or recommendations during meetings of the SJTC.

## **Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: members represented by the Autism Society of NL, the St. John's Transportation Commission and the Inclusion Advisory Committee

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3. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A City that Moves: Expand and maintain a safe and accessible active transportation network.

An Effective City: Ensure accountability and good governance through transparent and open decision making.

4. Alignment with Adopted Plans: N/A

5. Legal or Policy Implications: Section 7.3 of the IAC Terms of Reference re: Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

6. Privacy Implications: as noted in Section 5

7. Engagement and Communications Considerations: N/A

8. Human Resource Implications: N/A

9. Procurement Implications:N/A

10.Information Technology Implications:N/A

11.Other Implications: N/A

**Recommendation:**

That the IAC relay to Council their consensus or dissent in relation to the continued membership of Paul J. Walsh as ASNL’s representative on the IAC on the following basis:

- Mr. Walsh recuses himself from speaking or voting on matters that relate to the services of the SJTC at meetings of the IAC; and
- Mr. Walsh recuses himself from speaking or voting on matters that relate to IAC’s accessible transportation positions or recommendations during meetings of the SJTC.

**Prepared by:**

**Approved by:**