

ST. JOHN'S

Inclusion Advisory Committee Report

May 19, July 7, and September 22, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Virtual

Present:

- Dr. Sulaimon Giwa, Co-Chair, Anti-Racism
- Joby Fleming, Co-Chair, Empower NL
- Councillor Debbie Hanlon, Council Representative
- Duane Morgan, CNIB (May 19 only)
- Carolyn Mills, Metrobus/GoBus, Accessible Transit
- Kim Pratt Baker, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (May 19 & Sept 22nd)
- Ashley Bonnell, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (July 7 & Sept 22)
- Megan McGie, NL Association of the Deaf (May 19)
- Paula Coggins, NL Association of the Deaf (July 7)
- Trevor Freeborn, Coalition of Persons with Disabilities
- Renata Lang, Association for New Canadians
- Paul Walsh, Autism Society
- Heidi Edgar, Mental Health (May 19 & July 7)
- Alyse Stuart, Women's Issues
- TJ Jones, 2SLGBTQIA+
- Jane Simmons, Physical & Neurological Disabilities (May 19th)
- Natalie Godden, Manager of Healthy City & Inclusion
- Trisha Rose, Facilitator, Accessibility & Inclusion
- Vanessa Bambrick, Program Coordinator, Inclusion Services
- Jennifer Squires, Legislative Assistant

Others May 19th:

- Kimberlie Hart, CNIB
- Cheryl L. Mullett, City Solicitor
- Amer Afridi, Manager, Transportation Engineering
- Christa Norman, Special Projects Coordinator
- Karen Panchaud, Interpreter
- Courtney Richards-Drummond, Interpreter

Others July 7th: Karen Panchaud, Interpreter
Tyler Megarry, Interpreter

Others September 22nd: James Markin, Interpreter
Pamela Burchell, Interpreter

1. Autism Society Representative

Cheryl Mullett, City Solicitor, Karen Chafe, City Clerk, and Paul Walsh, Autism Society

The City Clerk informed the Inclusion Advisory Committee (IAC) on a perceived conflict of interest concerning their Autism Society representative, as they were also a member of the St. John's Transportation Commission (SJTC). In consultation with Legal, it was determined that the representative could remain on both Boards provided he recuse himself from speaking or voting on matters that relate to the services of the SJTC at meetings of the IAC; and that he recuse himself from speaking or voting on matters that relate to IAC's accessible transportation positions or recommendations during meetings of the SJTC.

The Autism Society representative spoke on the issue, noting that should the IAC feel that there would be a conflict should he continue on both the IAC and the SJTC, he would resign from the SJTC and continue on as the Autism Society representative with the Inclusion Advisory Committee. He had previously explained his position with the Transportation Commission, and they had no issue with him continuing to be a member of both the IAC and SJTC with the aforementioned conditions on participation.

The Autism Society representative left the meeting at this point to provide IAC members an opportunity to discuss the issue. Members spoke in support of the continued membership of the representative and the following motion was made:

The Inclusion Advisory Committee recommends that Mr. Paul Walsh, Autism Society Representative, remain on the Inclusion Advisory Committee as well as the St. John's Transportation Commission for the remainder of his term, providing 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.

Staff will inform Council of the recommendation accordingly.

Recommendation

Moved By Joby Fleming

Seconded By Jane Simmons

The Inclusion Advisory Committee recommends that Mr. Paul Walsh, Autism Society Representative, remain on the Inclusion Advisory Committee as well as the St. John's Transportation Commission for the remainder of his term, providing 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.

MOTION CARRIED

2. 2SLGBTQIA+ Working Group

The Inclusion Coordinator provided the IAC with an overview of the attached Decision Note, highlighting the actions that have been undertaken by the City as per the recommendations made at the 2SLGBTQIA+ community consultation held in February of 2022. The meeting was organized by City staff and IAC representatives and included organizational stakeholders and individuals with lived experience with a focus on the City's need to address barriers faced by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

As a result of the consultation, it has been recommended that staff and IAC representatives form a 2SLGBTQIA+ working group that will make recommendations to Council through the IAC.

Recommendation

Moved By Paul Walsh

Seconded By Ashley Bonnell

- That City staff and IAC representatives form a 2SLGBTQIA+ working group that will make recommendations to Council through the IAC
- That the 2SLGBTQIA+ working group develop training resources that can be used by City staff and the community to create safe, inclusive environments for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community
- That the 2SLGBTQIA+ working group develop a work plan that will guide future efforts towards inclusion for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community

MOTION CARRIED

3. Accessible Pedestrian Signal Working Group

As a result of a recommendation of Council, Staff, in consultation with the Co-Chairs, are recommending that the Accessibility & Inclusion Facilitator sit on the Accessible Pedestrian Signal Work Group alongside members of the Sustainable and Active Mobility Advisory Committee and act as liaison to ensure that all members of the IAC have an opportunity to provide input. This will also permit Staff to undertake jurisdictional scans and research as well as facilitate consultations with the IAC.

Recommendation

Moved By Dr. Sulaimon Giwa

Seconded By Jane Simmons

The IAC Recommends that the Accessibility & Inclusion Facilitator act as a liaison between the IAC and the Pedestrian Signals Working Group to ensure that jurisdictional scans and research of best practices is completed as part of the consultations with the IAC. Final recommendations will be vetted through the IAC Committee for their input and recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Accessible Parking Working Group

At a previous meeting of the IAC, concerns and suggestions regarding accessible parking from a resident was brought forward. As a result of the discussion, the IAC recommended that Council approve the development of an Accessible Parking Working Group which will work to improve accessible parking and make recommendations on a public engagement process about accessible parking concerns of City regulated spaces. It was further recommended that the

City develop a public awareness and education campaign, which includes invisible disabilities, concerning accessible parking and accessible parking permits. In addition to this, accessible parking reports would be provided to the IAC on an annual basis. These recommendations are in line with best practices in other jurisdictions Staff have prepared a Decision Note to Council on the matter, and should the Committee agree with the Staff recommendation, an Accessible Parking Working Group will be formed which would report to the IAC, and any recommendations made by the working group would be brought back to the IAC for consideration.

Recommendation

Moved By Dr. Sulaimon Giwa

Seconded By Trevor Freeborn

That Council approve the development of an Accessible Parking Working Group, reporting to the Inclusion Advisory Committee, to provide advice and recommendations for improved accessible on-street parking in the City of St. John's.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Inclusion Representation on City Committees

Staff, in consultation with the Co-Chairs, are recommending that when IAC input is requested from City departments, the appropriate Accessibility & Inclusion staff member act as liaison between the groups. Similar to the process for the Accessible Pedestrian Signals Working Group, this will allow Staff to undertake research and consult with the Committee as required. Final recommendations will be vetted through the IAC Committee for their input and recommendations.

Recommendation

Moved By Dr. Sulaimon Giwa

Seconded By Joby Fleming

The IAC recommends that Accessibility & Inclusion Staff act as a liaison between the IAC and City Departments and Committees to ensure that jurisdictional scans and research of best practices is completed as part of the consultations with the IAC. Final recommendations will be vetted through the IAC Committee for their input and recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED

CO-CHAIRS, JOBY FLEMING AND DR. SULAIMON GIWA