



Hamilton

CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Chair and Members Audit, Finance & Administration Committee
From:	Marilyn Wright, Chair Aboriginal Advisory Committee
Date:	March 24, 2014
Re:	Aboriginal Advisory Committee – Draft Terms of Reference (AAC14001) (City Wide)

Recommendation:

- (a) That the Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, attached as Appendix “A” to Report AAC14-001, be approved.
- (b) That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee respectfully requests that a member of Council be appointed to be the committee’s liaison on behalf of Council.

Background:

The Hamilton Executive Directors’ Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC) had acted in the capacity of an advisory committee to Hamilton City Council for 8 years; between 2002 and 2010. HEDAC began meeting informally in 1995, as a committee, with the members being primarily Executive Directors and Board Presidents of local Aboriginal organizations. The Committee continued to grow over the years with a membership of 19 Aboriginal owned and managed organizations working to improve the quality of life for urban Aboriginal populations in Hamilton. HEDAC exists to advocate for inter-agency and inter-community networking, communications, sharing and working together; to address issues of mutual interest and/or concerns in the Aboriginal community.

In December 2010, the City was advised that HEDAC became an incorporated entity and as an organization took on a new role. The City expressed appreciation for the committee’s input, advice and contributions over the years, in assisting with developing and maintaining closer connections to the Aboriginal community, in Hamilton. HEDAC was asked to remain as a resource to the new committee where

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they could continue to provide advice and information that would greatly assist in making a smooth transition and providing continuity.

The City Clerk's Office conducted a recruitment process for new members for the City's Aboriginal Advisory Committee and subsequently the successful candidates were appointed in the fall of 2011. Since the time of such appointments, the Aboriginal Advisory Committee has been operating with the interim terms of reference of HEDAC (attached as Appendix B to Report AAC14-001) while revising the new draft terms of reference to be taken to Council for approval, that would reflect the current situation and the realities of the Aboriginal community in Hamilton.

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee's newly revised draft terms of reference was developed using a similar template that was used to revise and update the terms of reference for the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Advisory Committee.

The attached Appendix A to Report AAC 14-001 reflects the culmination of the discussions over the past several months and is recommended for approval.

The previous interim Terms of Reference is attached as Appendix B.

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee also, respectfully requests that a member of Council be appointed to the committee, who will then act as a liaison to Council and will endeavor to attend their monthly meetings, to provide any necessary advice and or information, to assist and guide them. As he had supported the committee in the past, Mayor Bratina has endeavored to keep up to date with the committee's deliberations and initiatives. The committee appreciates the support and ongoing interest from Mayor Bratina, but due to the Mayor's busy schedule, the committee wishes an appointment of a Councillor who could be more readily available to attend the meetings.

The committee will continue to keep the Mayor apprised of any issues and deliberations.