



Hamilton

# CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members Audit, Finance & Administration Committee
<b>From:</b>	Marilyn Wright Aboriginal Advisory Committee <i>Marilyn Wright</i> (to be signed by the Chair)
<b>Date:</b>	December 5, 2019
<b>Re:</b>	City of Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference

## **Recommendation:**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference are updated to reflect the Committee's voting and non-voting members.

## **Background:**

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee (the Committee) underwent recruitment for the new term, as other Volunteer Advisory Committees did in later 2018 and early 2019. However, the Aboriginal Advisory Committee engaged in a recruitment process whereby leadership from the community were asked to partake in the recruitment process and provide recommendations to Council for the appointment of members. This recruitment process was undertaken as a result of a report approved by Council in July 2015 (CM15007).

During the recruitment process, it was identified that the Aboriginal Advisory Committee had sitting members who did not identify as Indigenous. It was expressed by members of the community, and the leadership appointed for the selection process, that the Committee should only be comprised of Indigenous members who represented the wider Hamilton Indigenous communities. However, the sitting Committee identified that the non-Indigenous members had become integral to the Committee and supported the Committee through initiating new projects and their active participation. The Committee took into consideration both their experiences with the non-Indigenous members and the feedback from the wider community.

As a result, the Committee has considered changes to its composition. The composition of the new Committee includes 7 - 9 appointees from the Hamilton Aboriginal Community who have expressed their interest and how they would support the fulfillment of the Committee's mandate. As well the Aboriginal Advisory Committee now has allocated seats for up to two non-voting allies. The Committee has defined an "ally" as an individual supporting the mandate and work of the Committee and the community. The non-voting allies have expressed interest and have submitted the same paperwork as the Indigenous candidates. These participants are generally non-Aboriginal candidates. The selection process is led by leaders of the Aboriginal community who will make recommendations for appointments to the Committee.

**Analysis/Rationale:**

Keeping at the forefront the needs and wishes of the community but also taking into consideration reconciliation.