



CITY OF HAMILTON

Vision

To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Preamble: This document uses the format and content typically used by the City of Hamilton for its advisory committees, but this Committee's work should be understood to have vital cultural traditions and teachings at its core. These may not be obvious in this document, but they are part of this Committee's approach and philosophy and how it pursues an effective path and a meaningful future through its work. The Committee respects a whole-world view that recognizes each individual's interconnectedness and also their contributions to the collective wellbeing of the whole. Balance, harmony, peace and justice are valued concepts within this philosophy.

COMMITTEE MANDATE

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee assists the City of Hamilton to honour and engage its Aboriginal citizens in the pursuit of the City's vision by providing advice and/or recommendations, through the appropriate Standing Committee of Council, that enhance the wellbeing of Aboriginal people and/or resolve municipal issues.

The Committee envisions a future where Hamilton is an inclusive and culturally-aware community, where issues of importance to its Aboriginal peoples are addressed proactively, effectively and respectfully on the municipal agenda.

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

- to assist the City in achieving and demonstrating progress or positive change in support of the equitable economic, social, health and overall wellbeing of Aboriginal citizens;
- to provide a forum and mechanism for coordinated dialogue and consultation between and among Aboriginal leaders and other stakeholders, acting as a catalyst for the development of positive relationships and open, transparent dialogue between and among the City and these stakeholders; and,
- to offer input, advice and recommendations, through the appropriate Standing Committee of Council, informed by stakeholder consultation, to support the City in determining effective municipal strategies and/or policies on issues of importance to Aboriginal peoples.

COMMITTEE VALUES

In fulfilling our mandate, members of the Committee uphold the following values of collective and individual importance: trust, respect, unity, truthfulness, inclusiveness, pride and empowerment. In our collective work with the City and with Aboriginal stakeholders, members of the Committee seek relationships that are sustained by mutual respect and flexibility and that lead to constructive solutions, productive outcomes and improved opportunities for Aboriginal peoples. We value increased visibility and recognition of the importance of Aboriginal peoples and cultures, as a means to eliminating stereotypes.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be revised to include the following: that the local Hamilton Aboriginal Community leadership, recommend to Council the appointment of residents from the Hamilton Aboriginal community and its allies, to sit on the Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

COMPOSITION

The Advisory Committee will be comprised of seven (7) to nine (9) citizen appointees from the Hamilton Aboriginal community and up to two (2) allies.

For the purposes of the committee, an ally is defined as an individual from the wider Hamilton community who demonstrates support for the mandate of the committee and the work of the Hamilton Aboriginal community.

The Terms of Reference for the Hamilton Aboriginal Advisory Committee were approved by Council on September 22, 2014. The Selection Process and Composition sections were amended on July 10, 2015; and further amended on September 5, 2019.