



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 19, 2018**

Date: July 16, 2018
From: Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday
Subject: Accessibility at City Hall

Background:

The Accessibility Working Group adopted the following recommendation for Council's consideration at its meeting of July 9, 2018:

"That Council direct staff to take steps to create an accessible meeting space at City Hall."

This is consistent with multiple AWG recommendations to staff and Council going back to the autumn of 2016. In its December 2016 report to Council, the AWG recommended to Council: "That scent reduction and pet restriction policies be developed and implemented for City Hall." The prioritized AWG Accessibility Issues List has ranked "Environmental Concerns and Allergies at City Hall" as a priority 1, Urgent health and safety, in June 2017.

Finding a committee meeting space that is accessible to all AWG members, including those using wheelchairs and experiencing environmental barriers, has been challenging. One member has been participating remotely, with inherent technical difficulties and communications limitations since September 2016. The difficulties in finding a fully accessible meeting room highlights the fact that City facilities are not accessible to all citizens and residents.

It is therefore recommended that Council provide direction to staff, to ensure that City Hall, as the centre of our local government, is accessible to all people, beginning with provision of an accessible meeting space, and then removing barriers to participation in the Council Chamber and other public areas in City Hall.

Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to:

1. Take steps on a priority basis to create a meeting space at City Hall that is accessible to people with a range of disabilities, including people who cannot participate due to allergens / air quality.
2. Continue to remove barriers to access in the Council Chamber and other public areas at City Hall, including entrances, corridors and washroom facilities associated with access to, and use of, these public spaces.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Isitt



Councillor Loveday