

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (2)

DATE: Tuesday, May 09, 2023

TITLE: NATIONAL ACCESSABILITY WEEK

FROM:

Councillor Gila Martow

Whereas, National AccessAbility Week is an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions and leadership of Canadians with disabilities, highlight the work of people, organizations and communities that are removing barriers, and reflect on ongoing efforts to become a better, more accessible, more inclusive Canada.

Whereas, National AccessAbility Week is an annual event in Canada that takes place during the last full week of May and will take place from May 28 to June 3, 2023.

Whereas, according to the 2016 Census, there were approximately 15,490 people with disabilities living in Vaughan, which represents 8.2% of the city's population.

Whereas, the City of Vaughan is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. The City believes in integration and fair access for residents, visitors and employees with visible or non-visible disabilities.

Whereas, the Recreation Services Department provides a number of programs that encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in diverse recreational opportunities, at a level of participation suitable to their ability and program of choice.

Whereas, the City of Vaughan has collaborated with Project SEARCH and local community partners to provide this program to individuals in the local community. As a host site, City of Vaughan offers a 10-month internship program to a cohort of eight interns set to graduate in June of 2023.

Whereas, the week is an opportunity for businesses and organizations to showcase their accessibility initiatives and highlight their commitment to creating an inclusive environment for all.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT National AccessAbility Week is proclaimed annually;
2. THAT Members of Council engage in utilizing promotional materials developed by City's Corporate and Strategic Communications Department and by taking a picture holding a sign that states what Accessibility and Inclusion mean to them;
3. THAT each year, staff collaborate with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to spotlight a different program or initiative addressing accessibility;
4. THAT Project SEARCH is spotlighted and promoted with support from the City's Corporate and Strategic Communications Department; and
5. THAT the City's Events Division provide support to Project SEARCH's graduation ceremony.

Attachments

1. [Committee of the Whole \(2\), June 21, 2022, Report, "Project Search – Employment for Persons with Different Abilities"](#); and
2. Project SEARCH Background Information.