



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
--------------------------------------	--	---	--

To: Mayor Zebian and Members of Council

Submitted by: Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Date: April 14, 2026

Subject: 2026 Citizen Member Appointment to the Accessibility Advisory Committee

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (MGA) – Sections 24-27, Standing, special and advisory committees; Vacancy on Boards, Commissions and Committees; Citizen Advisory Committees; and Community Committees.

The AAC operates in alignment with provincial legislation requiring municipalities to develop and maintain accessibility plans.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

After consideration of the information presented in this report, the recommended motion is

Committee of the Whole recommends Council approves Jamie Patterson be appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the term April 28, 2026 to April 30, 2028.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☒	Environment ☐	Social ☒	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
-----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	---

The Accessibility Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on identifying, preventing and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities.

The Committee plays a pivotal role in helping to become a barrier-free community and ensuring obligations under “An Act Respecting Accessibility in Nova Scotia (2017)” are met.

Through its mandate, the Committee advises on accessibility planning, reviews municipal policies and bylaws, monitors legislative requirements, and engages with the community to ensure municipal operations are inclusive, responsive, and accessible to all residents.

The Accessibility Advisory Committees composition is made up of no less than seven (7) members as follows:

- To a two-year term – One (1) member of Council and One (1) Alternate
- To a two-year term – No less than Four (4) Resident members
- To a three-year term – No less than Two (2) Resident members.
- Resident members will not be members of Council or employees of the Municipality.
- At least one half of the members of the AAC must be persons with disabilities or representatives from organizations representing persons with disabilities.

DISCUSSION

With the adoption of the Anti-Hate, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility Plan in 2025, the Committee has taken deliberate steps to foster inclusive, equitable, and accessible communities for all. The Accessibility Advisory Committee, a well-established body of seven dedicated individuals, plays a vital role in building an accessible West Hants.

The recommended applicant brings specialized expertise and lived experience that provide unique insight into the barriers faced by persons with disabilities; perspectives that may not be evident to those without firsthand experience. Their professional knowledge, combined with community involvement and personal understanding, will significantly strengthen the Committee's capacity to advise, guide, and advocate for accessibility initiatives.

As an essential advisory body, the Accessibility Advisory Committee ensures that municipal operations align with legislative requirements and reflect the needs of persons with disabilities, fostering a more inclusive and barrier-free community.

Appointing this candidate will enhance the Committee's ability to fulfill its mandate, adding a valuable lens informed by both professional expertise and lived experience. This combination will enrich discussions, contribute practical and informed insights, and bring a distinct perspective that supports thoughtful, inclusive, and impactful recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

Once approved by Council, the applicant will be contacted to notify them of whether or not they were appointed. Required additional information will be sent to new members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resident members appointed to a Committee of Council will receive remuneration in accordance with the Council Remuneration Policy, which is identified in the annual Operating Budget.

ALTERNATIVES

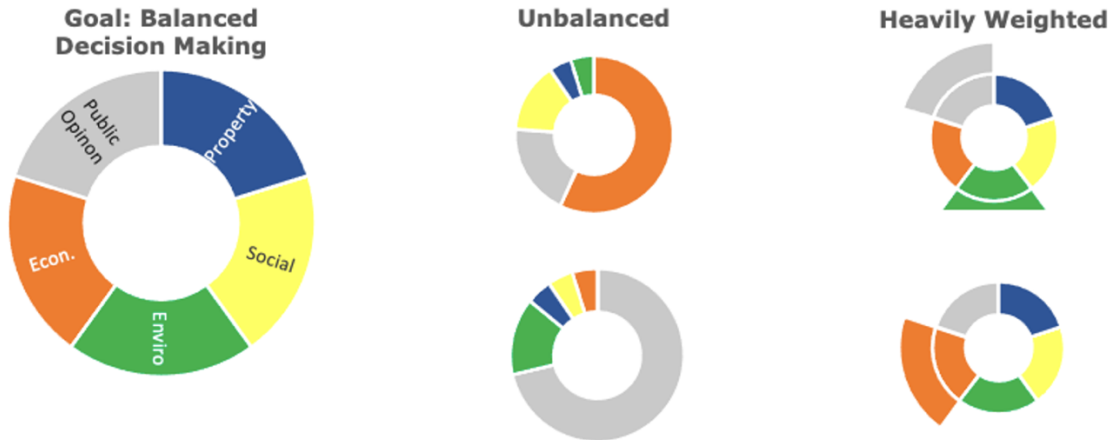
Council may choose not to approve the direction or may direct staff to explore alternative approaches.

ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole” as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Reviewed by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by: _____
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer

