



**Office of the C.A.O
Legislative Services**

OAAC-26-05

Date: April 7, 2026

To: Members of the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee (O.A.A.C.)

From: Ashley MacDougall, Supervisor Legislative and Accessibility Services

Re: 2026 Accessibility Award Nominations

In late 2025 Council endorsed the amalgamation of all City Award programs under one stream, "Community Awards". This approval did not fundamentally change the individual award programs, rather brought the six award programs in line with the opening and closing dates for the award nominations, and will present awards to all nominees at one awards meeting. This will be a change to how the awards have been presented in previous years. The Special Meeting of Council will remain focused on providing an opportunity for Council to hear and address accessibility and diversity, equity and inclusion challenges in the city.

The Special Meeting of Council will be held on May 26, 2026 during the week immediately before National AccessAbility Week (N.A.A.W.), which is designated this year as May 31 to June 6, 2026.

The nomination period for the Accessibility Improvement Awards opened on February 10, 2026 and closed on March 10, 2026. Corporate Communications released a public news story on February 10, which was shared with all members of the O.A.A.C. via email the same day. Several communication efforts were undertaken to promote the award program. This included multiple social media campaigns, signage in all municipally owned centers, digital signage, post card handouts promoting the acceptance of nominations and boulevard signage.

At the close of nominations, three qualified nominations for accessibility improvement awards were submitted; one individual and two businesses. The nominations being recommended to receive an Accessibility Improvement Award in 2026 include:

Individual:

Matisse Nelis – of Matisse Nelis Consulting Inc.

Business or Organization:

Boys and Girls Club (BGC) Durham, Aquatics Department

CIHMental Wellness Solutions

Recommendation:

That the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend to the Corporate and Finance Services Committee:

That based on Report OAAC-26-05 dated April 15, 2026, Matisse Nelis of Matisse Nelis Consulting Inc., The Boys and Girls Club (BGC) Durham Aquatics Department, and CIHMental Wellness Solutions, be nominated for 2026 Accessibility Improvement Awards through the City Awards Program.