

To: Chair,
Accessibility Advisory Committee,
City of London

Re: Accessible City Council and Committee Meetings.

Dear members of ACCAC,

Kash Husain and I both had the opportunity to participate in the December 13th Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) meeting dealing with the staff report on subsidized public transit. After we had spoken and listened to the approximately 90 other people give their view on the proposed plan, many members of the audience with Vision Loss, were left unaware and un-informed about the activities and motions that took place during this long meeting. At the end of this session, Councilor Mo Salih, Chair of the CPSC, spoke to the audience and brought forward a recommendation that staff consider and report on how to make committee-meeting materials available in alternate formats in a timely manner.

At the Council meeting of December 19th, there was a lively debate on the subsidized transit fare issue. While councilors made numerous presentations and discussed the motions presented, meeting attendees with vision loss were again left out.

During the evening's discussion and debate Council members did not provide meeting materials and information in alternate formats so that attendees with vision loss could follow the flow of the deliberations. Staff posted all motions, amendments and the like on the large screens in Council

chambers. However no one read out loud the information or provided a readable or understood format for attendees with vision loss to follow.

At this time we ask that ACCAC prepare guidelines for Standing Committees and Council to follow to make available ALL meeting materials and information be in alternate formats in a timely manner. Furthermore, ACCAC develop guidelines that Council, Standing Committee Chairs and City Clerk use to ensure their meetings meet the accessibility needs of the municipality.

No person should experience barriers obtaining meeting materials or when participating or attending a public meeting. An understanding of the deliberation, including all motions, all amendments and recorded result of the vote is essential to public participation.

We are always available to share our thoughts and suggestions with your committee members as you go forward with these necessary guidelines.

Thank you

Brenda Ryan and Ashfaq (Kash) Husain