

Frequently Asked Questions Sidewalk Toronto Residents Reference Panel

What is a Residents Reference Panel?

A Residents Reference Panel is a representative group of volunteers who are randomly selected to learn about, discuss, and advise government, its agencies, and its partners on important public policies. Reference Panels have been used extensively by governments across Canada, including in Toronto.

What are Waterfront Toronto, Sidewalk Toronto, and Sidewalk Labs?

Waterfront Toronto is the public advocate and steward of waterfront revitalization. Created by the Governments of Canada and Ontario and the City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto is a public agency mandated to deliver a revitalized waterfront. *Sidewalk Labs* is an Alphabet company that explores how technology can improve quality of life in cities. Sidewalk Labs was selected as Waterfront Toronto's Innovation and Funding Partner following a public competition in 2017. *Sidewalk Toronto* is the name used to describe this partnership between Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs.

Is this the first Residents Reference Panel in Toronto?

No. Different Reference Panels have been used to examine a range of topics in Toronto including land-use planning, access to health services, and provincial legislation governing condominiums. To watch a short video about a Reference Panel that is working to assist the City of Toronto's Planning Division, please visit prp.to.

But I'm not an expert and I don't think I know that much about city planning, technology, or the waterfront — can I still be involved?

Absolutely. We do not expect you to have any specialized knowledge about city planning, technology, or the waterfront. Your perspective and experience as a Toronto resident is what matters most. Each member will have enough time to learn everything they need to make an informed contribution to the Reference Panel.

How will the panel's work influence planning for Quayside?

Members of the panel will examine several themes including affordability, inclusion, mobility, new technologies, and sustainability. With support from independent facilitators, the members will work together to write an independent report detailing their vision, goals, and recommendations pertaining to each of these themes. This report will be received by the senior management team of Sidewalk Toronto and the board of Waterfront Toronto, and is expected to influence the planning of Quayside.

Where is Quayside?



What will members of the Residents Reference Panel do?

Between April and September 2018, members of the Residents Reference Panel will meet on five Saturdays for full-day meetings. As a member of the panel you will:

- Learn first-hand about your city and its waterfront, and contribute to its future;
- Share your perspective and learn about the views of other Toronto residents; and
- Help make sure that the development of Toronto's waterfront reflects the values and priorities of all Torontonians.

Sidewalk Toronto will seek panelists' input on issues such as constructing and financing housing in new ways that could lower the cost of home-ownership or rentals; ensuring that the public interest and public benefits are secured in the development of public lands; limiting private cars and road use, and introducing new mobility options including shared self-driving vehicles and enhanced public transit; protecting personal privacy while employing new digital technologies; setting ambitious energy use and climate goals; and using parks and public spaces to provide better access to the water's edge.

The panel will hear from independent experts in urban planning, learn about trends and issues in the Greater Toronto Area, and consider examples of emerging urban technologies. Ultimately, panel members will work together in small groups to determine shared priorities for future development on Toronto's waterfront.

How was I selected to receive this invitation?

Your address was one of 20,000 households across Toronto randomly selected by Canada Post to receive this invitation.

Who is eligible to serve on the Residents Reference Panel?

To be a member of the Residents Reference Panel you must be 18 years of age or older and live at the address to which

Please turn over 

**Deadline
March 27
Respond Today**

this letter was sent. Only one volunteer per household is eligible to enter the selection process for the Residents Reference Panel. You do not need to be a Canadian citizen to participate. Employees of Waterfront Toronto or Sidewalk Labs, employees of the City of Toronto and the Governments of Ontario or Canada involved in waterfront development and planning policy, and elected municipal, provincial, and federal officials are ineligible to serve as members of the Residents Reference Panel.

Can anyone from my household volunteer?

Yes. This invitation is transferable to anyone currently living in the household that received this invitation. If you are unable to volunteer, please pass this invitation to any member of your household who is 18 years of age or older.

How will the members of the Residents Reference Panel be selected?

The panelists will be randomly and anonymously selected from among the pool of volunteers who respond to this letter — a process which is called a Civic Lottery. Civic Lotteries are conducted in such a way that ensures the selected members of the panel will broadly match the city's demographics and include people of different genders and ages, homeowners as well as renters, people who identify as visible minorities, and at least two Indigenous members.

How do I volunteer to become a member of the Residents Reference Panel?

First, you must respond to this invitation no later than Tuesday, March 27, 2018. You can register over the phone at 1-844-550-2625, online at sidewalktoronto.ca/panel, or by using the enclosed prepaid envelope. Then, on March 28, 2018, we will randomly select members of the Residents Reference Panel from among those who have registered as volunteers. If you are selected, you will be notified by phone.

Will I get paid to serve on the Residents Reference Panel?

No. We are asking you to volunteer your time as a member of the panel. Lunches and snacks will be provided, and basic travel costs, including parking, will be reimbursed. Subsidies for childcare and eldercare will be made available if requested. If there are other barriers, including a disability, that you feel may prevent you from volunteering for the panel call us at 1-844-550-2625. We are committed to assisting all members of the panel so that they can participate successfully, and if you are selected we will work with you to accommodate your needs.

I am unsure whether I can attend all five meetings — can I still volunteer?

Unfortunately, no. It is very important that all members of the Reference Panel attend each of the five meetings. These will be held in downtown Toronto, and we can provide assistance with reaching the venue. Please consider and confirm your ability to participate before applying.

The five meetings will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following dates. You must be able to attend all five of these meetings in 2018:

- 1) Saturday, April 21
- 2) Saturday, May 5
- 3) Saturday, June 2
- 4) Saturday, June 23
- 5) Saturday, September 29

Will the Residents Reference Panel have translation services?

The panel meetings will be in English and simultaneous translation will not be available. If you want to participate but are worried about your English, please call us so we can discuss how you might be able to participate successfully.

If I am not selected for the Residents Reference Panel, can I still be involved?

Absolutely. There will be many opportunities for residents to be involved with waterfront development, including public roundtable meetings, public lectures, pop-up stations, and a fellowship program. A full list of upcoming events will be posted at sidewalktoronto.ca as they are announced. You can also follow along on Twitter (@sidewalktoronto) and on Facebook (SidewalkToronto), or by signing up for the Sidewalk Toronto newsletter at sidewalktoronto.ca

How will my personal information be collected, stored, and used?

In order to recruit a representative panel, we are asking each volunteer to provide some personal and contact information. This information will be used solely for the purpose of forming the Sidewalk Toronto Residents Reference Panel and will not be shared with or stored by Sidewalk Toronto, Sidewalk Labs, or Waterfront Toronto, unless you provide consent. You can read the full Residents Reference Panel Data Policy at sidewalktoronto.ca/paneldata. If you have any questions, you can speak to a Panel Coordinator by calling our toll-free number 1-844-550-2625.

How to register as a volunteer for the Sidewalk Toronto Residents Reference Panel:

There are three quick and easy ways you can register:

1. Call 1-844-550-2625 to register by phone or ask questions about the selection process.
2. Complete the enclosed Candidate Response Card and mail it back using the prepaid envelope.
3. Register securely online at sidewalktoronto.ca/panel.

Please ensure you register in one of the above ways by Tuesday, March 27, 2018. If you are selected for the panel, you can expect a phone call on the evening of Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Before registering, please check and hold all dates outlined in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) sheet until the evening of Thursday, March 29, 2018, when the members of the panel will be notified.

If you are unable to participate, please encourage members of your household 18 years of age or older to volunteer.