

Public Hearing Municipal Scan

City	Practices
Winnipeg	<p>Members of the public who wish to speak to an item at a hearing fill out a short "Representation Form." They indicate if they are registering in support of the application, or in opposition to it, or for information only. By filling out this form, the member of the public will also receive notice of the hearing body's decision/recommendation on the matter and information on how to appeal (if applicable). Generally, the applicant (and/or designate) is heard first, followed by those in support of the application. Next, those registered in opposition are heard, followed by those registered for information. Finally, the applicant may return if he/she so desires, and speak in rebuttal.</p>
Edmonton	<p>In Edmonton, generally everyone who shows up for Non-Statutory Public Hearings are paneled. The items are usually made time specific, which makes it easier for a speaker to plan to attend. Speakers register in support or in opposition. An online speaker registration form is available up until midnight the night before the meeting. Speakers can register in person on the day of the meeting, up until the item is being discussed. Those who register online are sent a automated email with instructions regarding length of presentations, questions, and handouts.</p>
Toronto	<p>Only committees hear from public presenters; presenters are not heard at full meetings of City Council. Public presentations (called Public Deputation sessions) are scheduled in advance, and speakers must register in advance using an Oral Deputations Registration Form. The usual public deputation speaking time is five minutes. However, when the list of speakers is long, the committee can choose to reduce the speaking time. Direction to the public is to prepare speaking notes for approximately three minutes.</p>
Vancouver	<p>Speakers must register. Speakers are encouraged to register early to speak earlier. Speakers are assigned a speaker number that shows their position to speak about an agenda item. Numbers are assigned in the order the requests to speak are received. Speakers can sign up until the start of the meeting. Council can ask speakers questions after they present, which can take anywhere from 0 to 55 minutes per speaker (5-minute question period x 11 elected officials = 55 minutes). For public hearings only, speakers have 8 minutes if they speak on behalf of three or more people or groups. Each person or group representative needs to attend. Council will hear all registered speakers. If many people sign up, speakers may have to attend more than one meeting before it's their turn. Presentations received after the start of the meeting will not be accepted. @VanCityClerk twitter feed tracks the speaker numbers "Track your turn".</p>