



## RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting

June 7, 2021

6:00 p.m.

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### MINUTES

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b><i>Attendance:</i></b>   |                |
| <u>Committee</u>  | <u>Regrets</u> |
| Darius Sookram, Chair<br>Nayani Nandakumar, Vice Chair<br>Claudette Rutherford<br>Danielle Russell<br>Edward Choi<br>Madge Logan<br>Sujane Kandasamy<br>Tamarie Warner<br>Mohamad Mtairek<br>Hamza Sivanathan<br>Faiz Mohyuddin<br>Councillor Isa Lee | Suat Kenar     |
| <u>Guests</u>   |                |
| Alicia Lauzon, York Regional Police (YRP)   |                |
| <u>Staff</u>  |                |
| Mona Nazif, Staff Liaison (Senior Manager,<br>Human Resources)<br>Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election and<br>Committee Coordinator   |                |

### 1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Darius Sookram called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and read the City of Markham Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

The Committee observed a moment of silence for the 215 Indigenous Children found buried at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Moved by** Madge Logan

**Seconded by** Danielle Russell

That the June 7, 2021 Race Relations meeting Agenda be adopted.

**Carried**

## **3. Approval of Minutes from May 3, 2021 Meeting**

**Moved by** Councillor Isa Lee

**Seconded by** Sujane Kandasamy

That the May 3, 2021 Race Relations Committee Minutes be adopted.

**Carried**

## **4. Discuss RRC Support for Indigenous Children Victims and Survivors**

The Committee discussed the following support and recognition activities to remember the victims and survivors of the residential school system:

- That there be consideration to replace the prime minister portraits in the Canada Room with Indigenous art;
- That the Committee refer to the Markham Indigenous Community for any specific asks and education;
- That the Race Relations Committee initiate a resolution in support for Indigenous Children Victims and Survivors.

Staff advised that the Mayor has reached out to the Indigenous community in Markham and will recognize victims and survivors at the Council Meeting on June 8, 2021. It was also indicated that there will be 215 candles lit in memory of the victims on Friday June 11, 2021 in front of the Civic Centre.

The Committee indicated that they are aware and concerned about this issued and would like to participate in addressing it with the City.

**The following friendly amendment was included in the resolution below at the September 13, 2021 meeting.**

**Moved By** Danielle Russell

**Seconded By** Mohamad Mtairek

**That the Committee consent to the friendly amendment in line one to remove the specific reference to the initial mass grave site finding and reference all that were found across Canada.**

**Carried**

**Moved By** Danielle Russell

**Seconded By** Mohamad Mtairek

*Whereas Indigenous Children were found at the mass grave sites at residential schools across Canada; and,*

**Whereas truth and reconciliation has been an important national narrative and that the City of Markham is committed to all 94 Call to Action items; and,  
Whereas Call to Action item #75 calls for all levels of government to work together which includes the City of Markham; and further,**

**Whereas on January 31, 2017, the City of Markham signed an historic agreement of cultural collaboration with the Eabametoong First Nations:**

**Be it resolved that the City of Markham, the Race Relations Committee, and its communities take the time to listen and observe and actively seek out the truth and advice of Indigenous communities; and,**

**Be it resolved that the Race Relations Committee will make itself available to support Indigenous communities; and further,**

**Be it resolved that the Race Relations Committee is mindful of anti-racism and will support ongoing conversations with the City, the Mayor's Office and Indigenous communities.**

## **5. Brainstorm Session Follow Up**

The Committee acknowledged the following opportunities as take-away actions to set goals and measurable targets for the development of a strategic plan as it relates back to the Committee's mandate:

- Education
  - Knowledge
  - Training
- Stakeholder and Partnership Building
- Event Design
- Policy Workshop
- Visibility and Presence

There was discussion on how to create benchmarks, how to share lessons with others in the community and an annual report card of completed initiatives.

## **6. Anti-Racism Resolution Update**

The May 3, 2021 Race Relations Committee Minutes and Anti-Racism Resolution will be included in the July 13, 2021 General Committee Meeting Agenda.

## **7. City Updates**

The Committee thanked Councillor Isa Lee and Edward Choi for their work with the vaccine campaign and acknowledged Sandra Allen for putting together all of the Many Faces of Markham information, submissions and evaluations.

### Many Faces of Markham

This year's virtual event was deemed a success. An update will be provided this coming Friday regarding the winners. Staff will work with the Mayor's Office to prepare and send certificates.

Staff suggested that the Many Faces of Markham initiative be included on the September 13, 2021 agenda for a debrief and review of the lessons learned to improve the process going forward.

### RFP for Diversity Action Plan Update

The submissions are in the review stage.

### Mapping Community Assets

Staff advised that the list of community groups collected will be forwarded to Welcome Centers and places of worship and be part of the consultation process with Black communities and the City.

### York Region Weekly Vaccination Progress

York Region has 75.5% of the population over 18 years old and 73.2% of the population over 12 years old vaccinated with at least one dose.

## **8. Critical Race Theory & Resources**

The Committee will share the follow link with friends, colleagues, members of the community:

[Network of Anti-Racism Organizations Form \(crrf-fcrr.ca\)](#) (please note that this link is no longer valid)

[CRRF Glossary of Terms \(crrf-fcrr.ca\)](#)

## **9. Business Related to Previous Minutes (May 3, 2021)**

There was no business related to the previous minutes.

## **10. New Business**

### **a. Town Hall for South Asians on Covid-19 Vaccinations**

Sujane Kandasamy addressed the Committee to advise that a Town Hall to answer questions regarding the Covid-19 vaccine will be held on June 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM. This community initiative is to help research the concerns, dosing recommendations and potential side effects about the vaccine specific to the South Asian community.

**10. Next official meeting date: September 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

## **11. Adjournment**

**Moved By** Madge Logan  
**Seconded By** Danielle Russell

That the Race Relations meeting adjourn at 7:59 PM.

**Carried**