

Markham Race Relations Committee



Markham Race Relations Committee

Who are we?

- Residents of the Town of Markham (volunteers)
- Selected for the committee via application and interview process conducted by Members of Town Council.
- 15 members
 - 3 Thornhill
 - 3 Markham 9
 - 3 Unionville
 - 3 Milliken Mills
 - 3 Members of Council
 - 1 Senior Staff representative appointed by CAO

Markham Race Relations Committee

Current Focus

- advise and assist Council in its efforts to achieve harmonious Race and Ethnocultural relationships in Markham
 - gather information
 - listen to opinion
 - attempt to understand the concerns of the Community
 - respond to community questions
 - organize the Many Faces of Markham event
 - organize conferences, workshops, and forums

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Looking to the future

- Strategic direction
- 2-year action plan
- Policy framework

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Process

- January to May: Draft VMV and Action Plan
- June: Community Consultation
- Fall: Finalize Plan

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January to May: Draft VMV and Action Plan

- Process facilitated by Canadian Race Relations Foundation
- All-day meeting in January
- February and March regular meetings
- Final session in May
 - Plan for Community Consultation

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Community Consultation – June 29

- facilitated by Exec. Dir. Canadian Race Relations Foundation
- Reviewed draft actions
- Developed priorities

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Fall: Finalize Plan

- Finalize VMV wording
- Finalize priorities and action plan
- Establish sub-committee chairs
- Seek Markham Council endorsement

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Vision

The Markham Race Relations Committee is dedicated to ensuring that all people in Markham live together harmoniously in understanding and appreciation of our rich cultural diversity and heritage, free from racism and discrimination.

Markham Race Relations Committee

Mission

The Markham Race Relations Committee is working to:

1. Recognize, honour and celebrate the racial and ethnocultural diversity in Markham
2. Be a model for inter-racial and cross-cultural interaction within the community

Markham Race Relations Committee

Mission continued

3. Promote awareness, understanding, and appreciation of, and sensitivity toward, the needs of the diverse racial groups and ethno-cultural communities in Markham among the Council, Town of Markham employees, the business community, and residents
4. Facilitate greater interaction among Markham's racial groups and ethnocultural communities
5. Serve as a resource and advocate to Council on racial and ethnocultural issues

Markham Race Relations Committee

Values

- In our work, the Markham Race Relations Committee values:
 - Markham's rich cultural diversity
 - Cross-cultural education
 - Equity, fairness, and respect for all people
 - Inclusiveness and accessibility for all
 - Maintaining integrity, openness, and co-operation

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Mission 1: Recognize, honour and celebrate the racial and ethno-cultural diversity in Markham

Goals:

- Everyone in Markham values its diversity
- Events are seen as being for everyone
- Everyone gets information about all events
- Common meeting places are established

Activities:

- Organize Events
- Influence Existing Events
- Awards & Recognition

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Mission 2: Be a model for inter-racial and cross-cultural interaction within the community

Goals: Excellent Committee Processes
Demonstrated Excellence
Recognized for Excellence

Activities: Ensure Committee fulfills its mandate
Develop policy framework for Committee
Build committee knowledge & skills through education of members
Build community awareness of the Committee

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- Mission 3:** Promote awareness, understanding, and appreciation of, and sensitivity toward, the needs of the diverse racial groups and ethno-cultural communities in Markham among the Council, Town of Markham employees, the business community, and residents.
- Goals:** Culturally-sensitive services are available through the Town of Markham council, staff, and web site
Residents feel comfortable shopping and doing business anywhere in Markham
- Activities:** Build bridges through interaction
Policy development

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Mission 4: Facilitate greater interaction among Markham's racial groups and ethno-cultural communities

Goals: MRRC ensures event-planning processes and the events themselves bring people together and promote interaction

Activities: Organize workshops highlighting the cultures and ethnicities in Markham
Facilitate exchange visits or meetings between key groups or communities

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- Mission 5: Serve as a resource and advocate to Council on racial and ethno-cultural issues
- Goals: MRRC participates in Council discussions and deliberations related to the committee's mandate
Council adopts recommendations from the committee on matters of policy
Discuss anything referred to the committee
- Activities: Policy development
Advocacy

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Operational Structure

4 sub-committees

- Policy
- Events
- Communication
- Education

Markham Race Relations Committee 2-Year Plan

Sub-committee	Year 1	Year 2
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review other jurisdictions - Develop policies - Recommend Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop background - Develop protocols - Develop Markham P&P
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many Faces of Markham - Events Plan for Year 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many Faces of Markham - New Workshop(s) cultural diversity; anti-racism
Communication		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop key messages - Develop Award - Involve local businesses - Work with media
Education		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee development

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