

Blake Tait – Denounce 1 Million March 4 Children

ISSUE

Should the City of Saskatoon declare itself a 2SLGBTQQAI+ Sanctuary City?

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on [November 8, 2023](#), the Governance and Priorities Committee (“GPC”) considered this matter which came from a communication from the public and resolved, in part:

That the Administration report back on the request to declare Saskatoon a 2SLGBTQ+ Sanctuary City

CURRENT STATUS

Some cities in the United States have declared themselves 2SLGBTQQAI+ Sanctuary Cities. The Administration could not find an example from Canada where a municipality has declared itself a 2SLGBTQQAI+ Sanctuary City.

The issue of declaring Saskatoon a Sanctuary City was previously considered by the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services (“SPC-PDCS”) at its meeting on [April 3, 2017](#). At that meeting, SPC-PDCS considered communications from members of the public regarding whether or not the City of Saskatoon should declare itself a Sanctuary City for undocumented refugees or migrants. SPC-PDCS received the communications as information and took no further action on the issue.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The term “Sanctuary City” has generally been used in the context of a municipality’s treatment or handling of undocumented immigrants. Sanctuary Cities commonly limit or deny cooperation with the national government in enforcing its immigration laws.

Sanctuary Cities are more common outside of Canada in countries such as the United States, though a handful of Canadian cities such as Toronto and Hamilton have declared themselves to be Sanctuary Cities with respect to undocumented immigrants.

There is limited information available with respect to 2SLGBTQQAI+ Sanctuary Cities.

In general, the 2SLGBTQQAI+ Sanctuary City declarations in the United States are comparable to Sanctuary City declarations in the context of immigration in that they frequently involve cities choosing not to enforce certain federal laws, or otherwise encouraging low prioritization of enforcement of laws considered anti-2SLGBTQQAI+. As noted above, to date, it appears that no Canadian city has declared itself a 2SLGBTQQAI+ Sanctuary City.

It is unknown what it means to be a 2SLGBTQQAI+ Sanctuary City in Canada at this time. It could be argued that such a declaration would be purely symbolic in nature, but as there is limited information available in this area, the long-term implications are unknown at this time.

To date, the City has instead focused on specific initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion in Saskatoon. Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of recent initiatives.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, or legal implications identified in this report. However, actions taken by City Council as a result of this report may have financial and legal implications.

NEXT STEPS

The City will continue with its plans to encourage diversity and inclusion at the City and in the wider community beyond. However, in terms of the Sanctuary City declaration, the Administration is planning no further action at this time.

APPENDICES

1. 2SLGBTQQAI+ City of Saskatoon Recent Initiatives Overview

Report Approval

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