

April 12, 2018

Secretary, SPC on Environment,
Utilities and Corporate Services**Re: 2017 Annual Report – Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee
(File No. CK. 430-29)**

The mandate of the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee is to monitor and provide advice to City Council on issues relating to the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy. The Committee also has a mandate to provide education and awareness initiatives on cultural diversity and race relations issues by supporting organizations in the community with initiatives that support one or more of the following four community outcomes of the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy:

- The workforce will be representative of the population of Saskatoon.
- There will be zero tolerance for racism and discrimination in Saskatoon.
- Community decision-making bodies will be representative of the whole community of Saskatoon.
- There will be awareness and understanding in the community regarding the issues, and acceptance of the various cultures that make up Saskatoon.

Committee Membership

Membership on the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee for the year 2017 was as follows:

Councillor Cynthia Block

Ms. Phoebe Fosseneuve, representing the Saskatoon Health Region

Ms. Joann Gaudry, representing the general public

Mr. Darryl Isbister, representing the Saskatoon Public School Board

Ms. Delvin Kanewiyakiho, representing the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School
Board

Ms. Namarta Kochar, representing the general public

Ms. Shirley Ross, representing the general public

Mr. Sam Sambasivam, representing the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association

Mr. Howard Sangwais, representing the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety
and Policing

Mr. David Santosi, representing the Ministry of Social Services

Mr. Chris Sicotte, representing the Métis Community

Ms. Maria Soonias Ali, representing the general public
Dr. Jaris Swidrovich, representing the First Nations Community
Mr. Jamal Tekleweld, representing the general public
Police Chief Weighill, representing the Saskatoon Police Service
Alternate Representative – Superintendent Brian Shalovelo
Ms. Kari Wuttunee, representing the general public
Ms. Julie Yu, representing the general public

Focus for 2017

In 2017, the Committee continued its focus on the educational and awareness aspect of its mandate through the provision of co-sponsorships to groups in the community for initiatives promoting intercultural harmony and addressing cultural diversity and race relations issues. Through these events, the Committee hoped to increase the awareness about the Committee and to highlight the positive initiatives in the community.

Education and Awareness Initiatives

The Committee participated in the following education and awareness initiatives:

Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Month

City Council proclaimed March as Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Month in Saskatoon. Opening ceremonies were held in the Council Chambers on March 1, 2017.

The Living in Harmony Awards Ceremony was held on March 21, 2017 at The Broadway Theatre. As in the past, awards were presented for the Living in Harmony Art and Literary Contests. Recognition Awards were also presented to individuals and organizations to recognize their efforts in promoting intercultural harmony in the community. The Committee assisted with the adjudication of these awards.

Co-Sponsorship Initiatives

As part of its education and awareness mandate, the Committee continued to support community groups in their efforts to provide education and increase awareness of cultural diversity and race relations issues. The Committee's intent was to try to expand its reach through these opportunities and to assist others in hosting cultural diversity and race relations events throughout the year.

In considering co-sponsorship requests, the Committee reviewed the following:

- How the request fits in with the Committee's mandate;
- Whether the event takes place in Saskatoon, which is a requirement;

- Participation levels requested by Committee members on the planning committees for the events (to provide an opportunity for the Committee to provide input wherever possible and to create awareness about the Committee and its role);
- The target audience and event outreach (number of people attending, whether it is anticipated there will be attendance by diverse communities in Saskatoon and what is being done to promote the event beyond the organization hosting the event);
- Themes and focuses; and
- Time of year of the event to help raise awareness throughout the year.

The Committee provided co-sponsorship for the following events:

Bangladeshi Community Association of Saskatchewan – Celebration of International Mother Language Day

The Committee provided co-sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 to the Celebration of International Mother Language Day event held on February 21, 2017 at St. Paul's United Church. Approximately 450 people attended the event and enjoyed the multicultural program and had the opportunity to get to know people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds in the spirit of promoting peace and multilingualism.

Oskayak High School – 2017 Spring Feast and Round Dance

The Committee was once again invited to participate in the traditional feast and round dance organized through Oskayak High School. The Committee provided co-sponsorship in the amount of \$1000 for the event held on March 31, 2017 at Oskayak High School. The event was a celebration of youth and culture, an event where everyone could learn about Plains Cree traditions and take part in an important and cherished event.

Saskatoon Industry-Education Council – Contact Conference

The Committee provided co-sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 to the conference which was held April 25/26, 2017 at the Travelodge Hotel Saskatoon. The conference was geared to individuals from provincial and band schools, post-secondary institutions, government and immigration agencies, community-based organizations, employment programs and from the human resources community who see career development as an integral part of their practice. Three keynote speakers, along with other presenters, facilitated over 20 breakout sessions providing information on current trends in career development, labour market information and examples of best practice. The Contact Conference goal was to teach participants about working with all cultural and diverse populations through Saskatchewan.

Pleasant Hill Community Association – Pleasant Hill Community Pow Wow

The Committee provided co-sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 for the 15th Annual Pow Wow held in the Pleasant Hill community on June 16, 2017. The goal of the event was to bring communities together and provide an opportunity to celebrate and learn about Aboriginal culture.

Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre – National Aboriginal Day Celebrations

The Committee provided co-sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 to the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre for National Aboriginal Day Celebrations held in Victoria Park on June 21, 2017. The goal of the event was to educate the community about the rich culture and traditions of the First Nation and Métis, and to share with the community what reconciliation means and how to continue to work together on this topic. The “Rock Your Roots” event took place the morning of the National Aboriginal Day Celebration and incorporated a reconciliation walk to honour and recognize Residential School Survivors and their families. This walk also represented reconciliation and how all the different groups were able to walk together and support each other.

Sum Theatre – A Show for Hope

The Committee provided co-sponsorship to Sum Theatre to support a group of 16 Syrian children write a play about their experience as refugees. The children were provided free drama classes to learn to act and also write their stories which were edited into a 15-minute play. The play titled “A Show for Hope” was then performed at Buena Vista Park on July 23, 2017. It was a positive experience for everyone involved, and the children gained a sense of community through working together. The children had arrived to Saskatoon from many different parts of Syria and different refugee camps, however, every Sunday for four months they were able to work together for two hours, enjoy each other’s company and bond together through working on the drama. Due to in-kind donations the Committee’s previous \$1,000 commitment to this project was reduced to \$559.

Equatorial South Sudanese Community Association in Saskatoon Inc. – Conference and Celebration of Diversity and Culture

The Committee provided co-sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 to the Equatorial South Sudanese Community Association for its Conference and Celebration of Diversity and Culture held on August 5-6, 2017 at Gordie Howe Sports Centre. The event was very successful and was attended by participants of South Sudanese descent from across Canada and USA, as well as the Indigenous people from Muskeg Cree Nation and the general public. Positive outcomes of this event included the introduction of the

South Sudanese in Saskatchewan to Indigenous peoples. The two groups were able to build new intercultural connections through dance, storytelling and the historic soccer game between these two communities. The event also set an example and encouraged opportunity for other immigrant communities to connect with Indigenous people and to promote collaboration and embrace multiculturalism and acceptance of other various cultures that make up the city of Saskatoon.

University of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Students' Centre Handbook - CD&RR
Committee Ad

As an opportunity to increase the awareness of the existence of the Committee and its role, the Committee placed an ad in the University of Saskatchewan 2017-2018 Aboriginal Student Handbook at a cost of \$100.00. The ad included the purpose of the Committee and a link to the City's website regarding additional Cultural Diversity and Race Relations information.

Focus for 2018

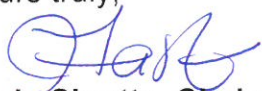
The Committee will continue to support learning and awareness opportunities between Aboriginal and Immigrant communities. The Committee will also look at ways to increase awareness and understanding of cultural diversity and race relations issues in our community.

The Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee will continue to participate in events during Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Month and to co-sponsor events throughout the year to assist the Committee in achieving its education and awareness mandate.

The Committee, through the organizations represented on the Committee, and through its connections with other groups in the community, hopes to continue to build on the awareness of the four community outcomes as stated on page one of this report.

The Committee will continue to look for more opportunities to share information about the successes of community partners and in celebrating their efforts in creating an inclusive community, where ethno cultural diversity is welcomed and valued, and where everyone can live with dignity and to their full potential, without facing racism or discrimination, as set out in the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy.

Yours truly,

for 
Chris Sicotte, Chair

Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee

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