



RACIAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2022

A meeting of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 5:30 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Steph Kallstrom (Chair)
Lerato Chondoma (Vice-Chair)
Stephanie Ameyaw
Ignatius But
Gurleen Cheema*
Alexandra Gunn
Naomi Hudson
Juggy Sihota*
Isaac Tomas
Austin Uzama
Dinushi Wickrama Arachchi
Kamika Williams
Mohammed Zaqout

ALSO PRESENT: April Sumter-Frietag, Staff Liaison
Mumbi Maina, Staff Liaison
Trustee Allan Wong, School Board Liaison
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Council Liaison
Councillor Jean Swanson

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Brian Fukushima, Committee Clerk

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Ignatius But
SECONDED by Stephanie Ameyaw

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of November 25, 2021, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Gurleen Cheema and Juggy Sihota absent for the vote.)

1. Support in Principle the Legal Challenge Against the Discrimination of Freedom of Religion as set out in Quebec's Bill 21 C

Councillor Kirby-Yung and Councillor Swanson spoke on the advocacy motion of Fall 2019. The Committee discussed potential funding and a press release.

MOVED by Mohammed Zaqout

SECONDED by Juggy Sihota

WHEREAS further to the motion passed by City Council in late 2019, Review of Quebec's BILL 21 C, and in light of the growing list of incidents of Islamophobia, we the Racial And Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee (RECE) unequivocally denounce Bill 21 C and we as the RECE Committee believe that this bill is not in line with Canadian values. This Bill highlights the continued inequality of racialized people in our country. Further this bill incites racism. The RECE Committee is also concerned about the potential negative ripple effect of Bill 21 C, including a further increase in Islamophobic hate incidences.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Racial And Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee (RECE) calls on Vancouver City Council to join other cities in making their opposition to Bill 21 C in Quebec concrete by contributing a sizable amount of a minimum of \$100,000, comparative to Brampton and Toronto, Ontario, to the Supreme Court case opposing Bill 21 C launched by World Sikh Organization (WSO) and National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM). We have noted that the City of Victoria has also contributed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we the RECE committee do not think it is equitable to take funding from work related to Vancouver's equity-deserving communities as outlined in the Equity Framework and the City of Reconciliation, and other equity-focused work and community engagement, considering how this Bill amplifies the inequality of racialized people.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Subcommittee updates

The Policing Subcommittee discussed their upcoming February 4, 2022 meeting with the VPD's Inspector Yung and Superintendent Tran.

3. Liaison Updates

The Chair introduced new Staff Liaison Mumbi Maina.

April Sumter-Frietag provided an update on the Black History Month acknowledgement and accompanying video that has been produced.

Councillor Kirby-Yung reported on the mischief charge laid by police in the defacing of the Komagata Maru memorial in Coal Harbour. Additionally updates were given on upcoming events including Holocaust Remembrance Day, Lunar New Year and Black History Month, all to be officially observed by the City of Vancouver.

Allan Wong discussed topics including the VSB Education Strategic Plan update, the Anti-Racism and Discrimination Strategic Plan, and the School Board budget.

4. Chair updates

The Chair announced the resignations of Vijaya Bhat and Paulina Chow from the Racial And Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee. The Office of the City Clerk is in the process of finding replacement Committee members.

5. New Business

Lerato Chondoma and Mumbi Maina discussed the potential development of a working glossary of anti-racism and equity terms. An internal "Intro to Intersectionality" document exists, providing an equity framework but the document has yet been made publically available.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Juggy Sihota
SECONDED by Mohammed Zaqout

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:31 pm.

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