



RACIAL AND ETHNO-CULTURAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 23, 2026

A meeting of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 5:45pm, via electronic means.

PRESENT: Steph Kallstrom, Chair
Harjot Banwait
Victoria Barclay*
Young Joe
Lydia Tang*
Pavandeep Toor

ABSENT: Alexandra Gunn
Jeremiah Rojas
Naina Varshney

ALSO PRESENT: April Sumter-Freitag, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects; Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Adeola Alle, Coordinator, Planning Committees

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Lydia Tang
SECONDED by Young Joe

THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting of Thursday, May 21, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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VARY AGENDA

MOVED by Lydia Tang
SECONDED by Young Joe

THAT the Committee vary the agenda to deal with item 2. Liaison Updates, prior to item 1. Working Session Updates.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order

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2. Liaison Updates

The Staff Liaison provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

1. Working Session Updates

The Chair provided an update on the working session held Thursday, June 25, 2026, at which Committee members received information on the following topics:

- Emancipation Day
- Impact of FIFA on the City

3. Subcommittee Updates

None.

4. New Business

The Committee discussed a motion recommending a day of observance for Emancipation Day, August 1st.

MOVED by Lydia Tang
SECONDED by Young Joe

WHEREAS

1. On March 24, 2021, the House of Commons of Canada voted unanimously to officially designate August 1 Emancipation Day nationwide;
2. Slavery in the Commonwealth was abolished when the Slavery Abolition Act took effect on August 1, 1834;

3. The House of Commons designated August 1 Emancipation Day, when Canadians are invited to reflect, educate, and engage in the ongoing fight against both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination; and
4. Emancipation Day celebrates the strength and perseverance of Black and Indigenous communities in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee recommend that the City Council of Vancouver designate August 1 as a day of observance for Emancipation Day in the City of Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee further discussed the lack of a Language Access Policy at the Vancouver Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Young Joe
SECONDED by Pavan Toor

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 10, 2026
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Teams Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 6:50pm.

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