

From: ["Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
Date: 3/18/2021 10:12:44 AM
Subject: Memo to Council - Slideshows in 3rd floor foyer project update
Attachments: Memo to Council - Slideshows in 3rd floor foyer project update.pdf

Good morning Mayor and Council,

The attached memo from Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk, provides an update and advises Council about:

- the new slideshows on display in the 3rd floor foyer; and
- the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD) on Sunday, March 21, which is one of 16 official annual Council events marked by the City.

The memo further seeks Mayor and Council feedback and ideas for future additions to the residents slideshow. Please forward any suggestions for additional groups and residents for the next version of the slideshow by e-mail to erp@vancouver.ca.

Please contact Katrina Leckovic at Katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca or 604.873.7998 with questions in regards to this memo.

Thank you,

Karen

City of Vancouver Deputy City Manager
karen.levitt@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, Acting City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts Culture and Community Services
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Aftab Erfan, Chief Equity Officer
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Lesley Matthews, Chief External Relations and Protocol

FROM: Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Update on the slideshows in the 3rd floor foyer, and plans for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21.

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to update and advise Council about:

- The new slideshows on display in the 3rd floor foyer, and seek your feedback and ideas for future additions to the residents slideshow, and
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD) on Sunday, March 21, which is one of 16 official annual Council events marked by the City.

Background

In the fall of 2020, External Relations and Protocol and Democratic Engagement in the City Clerk's Office collaborated with the Museum of Vancouver to update artifacts in the display cases in the 3rd floor foyer, and add digital screens featuring slideshows of past mayors of Vancouver, and stories about Vancouver's change leaders. The objective of the project is to create a more welcoming and inclusive space where all residents of Vancouver can see themselves reflected.

One of the new digital screens features a slideshow of Vancouver's mayors since 1886. The slideshow images replace the framed portraits previously displayed on the furthest east walls of the foyer at the entrance to the Council Chamber. There was no space on these walls to display additional framed portraits and staff determined that it was time to create a digital display that can be added to for years to come.

The second digital screen features a slideshow of residents and groups of activists who have affected change in Vancouver. The purpose of the slideshow is to make visible the impactful leadership of racialized and equity seeking communities, and create a more welcoming and inclusive space for guests and the public visiting City Hall. The slideshow digresses from Anglo-centric, settler-focused storytelling and aims to tell a richer and more complete set of stories about the past and present contributions of Vancouver residents in ways that reflect our diversity. Residents and groups featured in the slideshow include:

- Shirley Chan and residents of Strathcona
- The Militant Mothers of Raymur
- Vivian Jung
- Greenpeace
- Rosemary Brown
- Chief Dan George
- Emery Barnes
- Larry Grant
- Maisie Hurley
- Dr. Peter Jepson-Young
- Tilly Jean Rolston
- Helena Gutteridge
- Tsutae and Hanako Sato
- Carleen Thomas
- Dr. Durai Pal Pandia
- Joseph Seraphim Fortes
- SA7PLEK Joseph Capilano
- Chris Morrissey
- Gay Alliance Toward Equality
- Gertrude Guerin
- Arjan Singh Brar
- Frances Dalrymple Byron
- David Suzuki

The entire slideshow can be viewed online at the following link: <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/your-city-hall>, and it will be updated in the fall of 2022. If you have suggestions for additional groups and residents for the next version, kindly send an e-mail to erp@vancouver.ca.

Given that many of these residents fought against racial discrimination to make Vancouver the diverse and inclusive city it is today, staff are using a selection of the slides to share on social media this coming March 21 for IDERD. Residents that will be featured for IDERD on the City's social media channels include:

- **Vivian Jung**, the first Chinese-Canadian teacher hired by the Vancouver School Board, and whose life-saving certification resulted in the termination of segregation practices at Crystal Pool (now the Aquatic Centre);

- **Rosemary Brown**, co-founder of the British Columbia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, feminist and social justice advocate, and first Black woman elected to the British Columbia Legislature in 1972.
- **Chief Dan George**, the first Indigenous actor nominated for an Academy Award, George used his fame to draw attention to the dire consequences of colonization, famously performing Lament for Confederation at Vancouver's Canadian centennial celebration in 1967.
- **Emery Barnes**, elected to the British Columbia Legislature in 1972 as a representative of the Vancouver Centre riding. He served as an MLA until 1996, serving also as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1994-1996, the first Black Canadian to do so in any province. Barnes was a fierce representative for his constituents living in the Downtown Eastside, advocating for expanded social services and speaking out against racism.
- **Maisie Hurley**, lobbied for the rights of Indigenous peoples in British Columbia. In 1946, Hurley helped to launch The Native Voice, Canada's first Indigenous-focused newspaper. The nationwide paper featured both Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers advocating for Indigenous rights, including suffrage, land claims, and treaty rights. It ran until 1967, three years after Hurley's death.
- **Tsutae and Hanako Sato** taught at the Vancouver Japanese Language School (VJLS) until the school was forced to close as a result of racial discrimination during World War II. During internment, the Satos were forcibly relocated to a farm in Lacombe, Alberta. In 1947, they traveled to Vancouver to negotiate for the return of the VJLS to the Japanese Canadian community. In 1953, the school reopened; it was the only Japanese Canadian property confiscated by the Canadian government during WWII to be returned.
- **Dr. Durai Pal Pandia**, a South Asian lawyer in the late 1930's and onwards who assisted the South Asian community in their fight for immigration and voting rights. Much like other Asian immigrant communities, South Asians faced harsh immigration restrictions, resulting in family separations. Dr. Pandia became a leading voice in the abolition of these restrictions. The South Asian community, aided by Dr. Pandia's advocacy, won the franchise in 1947.
- **Sa7plek Joseph Capilano**, chief of the Squamish First Nation, travelled to England in 1906 to petition King Edward II. In their petition, the delegation asked, "we have our families to keep the same as the white man, and we know how to work as well as the white man; then why should we not have the same privileges as the white man?" Though the king was unresponsive to his party's argument for Indigenous land claims and hunting and fishing rights, Sa7plek continued his advocacy work until his death in 1910. His collaborative efforts inspired the formation of many First Nations coalitions across the province.

Please forward any suggestions for additional groups and residents for the next version of the slideshow by e-mail to erp@vancouver.ca. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Leckovic', written in a cursive style.

Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
604-873-7998 | katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca