

# Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

## Minutes

**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

**Electronic Meeting at 5:30 p.m.**

### **Attendance:**

Jenniffer Anand  
Rashmi Biswas  
Stanley Sadava  
Fatima Sheikh, Vice-Chair  
Vicki-Lynn Smith  
Saleh Waziruddin, Chair

### **Absent:**

Roxolana Chwaluk  
Samah Marei  
Rhiannon McCrae  
Erica Williams

### **Staff Liaison:**

Chantal Switzer, Corporate Support Services Coordinator

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#### **1. Call meeting to Order (Chair)**

Saleh Waziruddin called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

#### **2. Recognition of Traditional Territories**

Saleh Waziruddin acknowledged that the land on which Anti-Racism Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

#### **3. Amendments to the Agenda**

None

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by V-L. Smith

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the June 15, 2021 meeting agenda.

5. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by F. Sheikh

That the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting with an amendment to correct the spelling of Jenniffer Anand's name.

**Carried**

6. **Declarations of Interest**

None

7. **Business Arising from Recent Events**

- a. Resolution recommending the City join the call for a summit on Islamophobia arising in the wake of the London attack.

Moved by S. Waziruddin

**Resolution to Support Calls to Action in Wake of London Islamophobic Attack**

The proposal here is for St. Catharines to support the same calls for actions

**Resolution in Support of Calls for Action In the Wake of the Islamophobic Attack in London, Ontario**

WHEREAS on June 6, 2021, members of a Muslim family were killed in a racist terrorist attack which targeted the family because of they were Muslim; and

WHEREAS Islamophobia is a form of racism and needs to be addressed systemically, and

WHEREAS the National Council of Canadian Muslims has called for a national summit on Islamophobia and the Federal Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Youth has committed to holding this summit, and

WHEREAS none of the police-reported hate crimes in Niagara in the last two years have been prosecuted as hate crimes, per the reports of the Niagara Regional Police Service; and

WHEREAS the attack suspect has been charged with terrorism

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines condemns the London attack of June 6, 2021 as an act of Islamophobia and terrorism; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of St. Catharines supports the call for a national summit on Islamophobia; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of St. Catharines urges provincial crown prosecution attorneys to aggressively prosecute hate crimes as hate crimes; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of St. Catharines asks the province of Ontario to re-instate funding for the Anti-Racism Directorate; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of St. Catharines condemns politicians and governments of all political backgrounds who promote hate, including but not limited to xenophobia and Islamophobia, for political gain; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of St. Catharines calls upon the Government of Canada to immediately introduce and strengthen laws to address online hate speech, including white supremacy and the distribution of hateful materials targeting minority groups, including Muslims, and including considering re-introducing Section 13 of the Canada Human Rights Act which targeted online hate; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of St. Catharines denounces the Quebec Charter of Values and Bill 21 as they are inherently biased toward people of faith and in this context in particular Muslim women for its ban on the hijab and other head coverings; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of St. Catharines supports and invites public discussions on how to prevent online hate in coordination with the efforts of other levels of government.

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b) Calls to Action from Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

The Committee discussed the Calls to Action under the authority of municipal governments as identified by the TRC. A list of Federal efforts for the City to support will be brought forward.

- i. The Outreach and Education workgroup is currently working on staff training resources and will prioritize training on Indigenous Peoples. It was suggested that the two local Friendship Centres are consulted on whether there are local resources on Indigenous training.

- ii. V-L. Smith and S. Waziruddin volunteered to review what work the local Library and Museum is doing in line with the TRC's Calls to Action.
  - iii. S. Waziruddin volunteered to review language interpretation services offered by the City. It was noted that currently Mohawk is not on the list.
  - iv. Other items mentioned were Funding and Indigenous sports
- c) Recommendations from Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

The Commission's Enquiry Report was discussed and will be further reviewed by the committee.

#### 8. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a. Report from meeting with Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee.  
S. Waziruddin reported that some members of that committee agreed that they did not want harm to come to anyone from racist conduct at events if the police were not called. There were also members who felt that by ending an event due to racist conduct it might further escalate the matter. A decision on whether to support the amendment to the RZone policy as recommended by the ARAC was not made at the meeting as questions were referred to the Clerk's department on the ability of the organizing groups to ask members of the public to leave an event. The Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee will wait to hear back from staff. It was noted that in Europe there are protocols in place to escort people from the building if a sports game is ended because of racist or unruly conduct. Information on this will be brought to a future ARAC meeting.
- b. Outreach to community groups.  
When reaching out to community groups ARAC members will advise those groups of the work the ARAC is undertaking in the wake of recent events such as the attack in London and the discovery of missing Indigenous children, as well as the Calls to Action from the TRC and any recommendations coming from the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
- c. Training Resources Database.  
The work group continues to look for resources in St. Catharines and beyond to find trainers for the database.

#### 9. Business

- a. Workplan division of work proposal
  - i. The plan is established with volunteers working on specific items.
- b. Progress on workplan items.

- i. The plan, having just been established is now getting started.
- c. City Planning
  - i. City planning and zoning have at times been found to have racist aspects to them as noted in a Globe and Mail article forwarded by the Mayor to the Chair of the ARAC. The City of Edmonton is working with a professor to review this.  
R. Biswas and F. Sheikh will contact both parties and enquire on their findings.

**10. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 (special date to accommodate Eid)

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by F. Sheikh

That the June 15, 2021 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.44 p.m.