

Town of Richmond Hill

P.O. Box 300
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario
Canada L4C 4Y5
905-771-8800
www.richmondhill.ca

April 29, 2010

Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Corporate Services Department
York Region Administration Building
17250 Yonge Street, 4th Floor
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - P03

→ Chair

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Re: Proposed Motion regarding the Intention to Join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination

I am writing to advise that the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill, at its meeting on April 26, 2010, approved the following resolution:

Whereas:

- The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is calling on municipalities to join a Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and be part of UNESCO's international coalition launched in 2004; and
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities endorses the Call for a Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and encourages its members to join; and
- Municipal governments in Canada, along with other levels of government, have responsibilities under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as federal, provincial and territorial human rights codes, and therefore have an important role to play in combating racism and discrimination and fostering equality and respect for all citizens;

Be it resolved that:

- The Municipality of Richmond Hill, Ontario agrees to join the Coalition of Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and, in joining the Coalition, endorses the Common Commitments (outlined in appendix 'A' of the proposed motion) and agrees to develop or adapt its own unique Plan of Action accordingly.

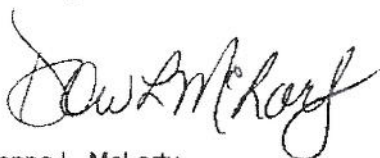


- These Common Commitments and the Municipality's unique Plan of Action will be an integral part of the Municipality's vision, strategies and policies.
- In developing or adapting and implementing its own unique Plan of Action toward progressive realization of the Common Commitments, the Municipality will cooperate with other organizations and jurisdictions, including other levels of government, Aboriginal peoples, public and private sector institutions, and civil society organizations, all of whom have responsibilities in the area of human rights.
- The Municipality will set its priorities, actions and timelines and allocate resources according to its unique circumstances, and within its means and jurisdiction. The Municipality will exchange its expertise and share best practices with other municipalities involved in the Coalition and will report publicly on an annual basis on actions undertaken toward the realization of these Common Commitments.
- This resolution regarding the Intention to Join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination be forwarded to the Region of York for consideration by Regional Council.

In accordance with Council's directive, I am forwarding to your attention a copy of the resolution for consideration by Regional Council at a future meeting.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding this resolution, please contact me at 905-771-2529.

Sincerely,



Donna L. McLarty
Town Clerk

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**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING
C#19-10 HELD APRIL 26, 2010
CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW NO. 45-10**

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

6.0 Proposed Motion regarding the Intention to Join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination – *(Notice of Motion provided at the April 12, 2010 Council meeting)*

Moved by: Regional and Local Councillor Hogg

Seconded by: Regional and Local Councillor Spatafora

Whereas:

- The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is calling on municipalities to join a Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and be part of UNESCO's international coalition launched in 2004; and
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities endorses the Call for a Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and encourages its members to join; and
- Municipal governments in Canada, along with other levels of government, have responsibilities under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as federal, provincial and territorial human rights codes, and therefore have an important role to play in combating racism and discrimination and fostering equality and respect for all citizens;

Be it resolved that:

- The Municipality of Richmond Hill, Ontario agrees to join the Coalition of Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and, in joining the Coalition, endorses the Common Commitments (outlined in appendix 'A' of the proposed motion) and agrees to develop or adapt its own unique Plan of Action accordingly.
- These Common Commitments and the Municipality's unique Plan of Action will be an integral part of the Municipality's vision, strategies and policies.

(continued)

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING
C#19-10 HELD APRIL 26, 2010
CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW NO. 45-10**

- In developing or adapting and implementing its own unique Plan of Action toward progressive realization of the Common Commitments, the Municipality will cooperate with other organizations and jurisdictions, including other levels of government, Aboriginal peoples, public and private sector institutions, and civil society organizations, all of whom have responsibilities in the area of human rights.
- The Municipality will set its priorities, actions and timelines and allocate resources according to its unique circumstances, and within its means and jurisdiction. The Municipality will exchange its expertise and share best practices with other municipalities involved in the Coalition and will report publicly on an annual basis on actions undertaken toward the realization of these Common Commitments.
- This resolution regarding the Intention to Join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination be forwarded to the Region of York for consideration by Regional Council.

Carried Unanimously

Appendix 'A'

The 10 Common Commitments outlined by the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) are divided into 3 areas of municipal responsibility:

- 1) the municipality as a guardian of the public interest;
- 2) the municipality as an organization in the fulfillment of human rights;
- 3) the municipality as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity.

The 10 Common Commitments are:

1. Increase vigilance against systemic and individual racism and discrimination.
2. Monitor racism and discrimination in the community more broadly as well as municipal actions taken to address racism and discrimination.
3. Inform and support individuals who experience racism and discrimination.
4. Support policing services in their efforts to be exemplary institutions in combating racism and discrimination.
5. Provide equal opportunities as a municipal employer, service provider and contractor.
6. Support measures to promote equity in the labour market.
7. Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in housing.
8. Involve citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making.
9. Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in the education sector and in other forms of learning.
10. Promote respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Aboriginal and all specific ethnic communities into the cultural fabric of the municipality.