

**MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 7:08 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair  
Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair  
Simin Ahmadian  
Adrienne Ahn  
Carolina Echeverri  
Pamela Garcia  
Honore Gbedze  
Ann Johannes  
Andrea Kwasnicki  
Priti Shah  
Iris Sun  
Zahra Zaker

STAFF: Genevieve Bucher, Manager Community Planning  
Torill Gillespie, Social Planner  
Sean O'Melinn, Legislative Services Manager  
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk  
Ashland Selby-Brown, Information Clerk

## CALL TO ORDER

### 1. Welcome and Roundtable of Reintroductions

The Chair welcomed the returning Committee members and the Committee participated in a roundtable of reintroductions.

The Chair welcomed the new Manager Community Planning and the new Social Planner to the meeting and they introduced themselves to the Committee.

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 were approved.

<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>
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**3. Approved 2020 MAC Work Plan – Fresh Perspectives Commentary**

The Manager Community Planning spoke to the Work Plan approvals process and noted that some items could be adjusted during the year due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**4. Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited the Committee to share information regarding happenings and events occurring in their communities over the past number of months. Committee members shared event details and spoke to issues and concerns experienced by their organizations and themselves as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including operational changes implemented to accommodate social distancing directives and the “new normal” everyone is operating within.

The Committee members undertook to share further information and event links with the Committee Clerk for dissemination to the group via email.

**5. An Introduction to Critical Multiculturalism and Racial Literacy - Presentation**

A Committee member gave opening remarks and outlined the purpose of her presentation. She provided an on-screen presentation, referring to slides titled as follows:

- An Introduction to Critical Multiculturalism and Critical Race Literacy
- Ground Rules
- Learning Objectives
- This Colour Slide Means It’s Time to Participate!
- Land Acknowledgement
- Whose Land Are You On?
- What is Multiculturalism?
- Multiculturalism is Great But...
- Introducing Critical Multiculturalism
- Critical Multiculturalism Believes...
- Critical Race Literacy and Anti-Racism
- What Is the Deal with Race Anyway?
- Racialization and Racism
- Institutionalized Racism
- Institutionalized Racism Is
- Why Do You Hate White People?
- White Privilege Can Be Uncomfortable
- But There Are So Many Variables and Exceptions...
- What About Immigrants and Racialized People?
- Anti-Racism Is an Everyday Practice
- Questions?
- Thank you!

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The understanding that the topic can be uncomfortable to broach and belief in the value and importance of the discussion
- Expressions of appreciation for the quality of the presentation
- Whether it would be possible to consider the mandate of the Committee through the lens of what had been presented
- Belief in the importance of all cultures recognizing and acknowledging one another and co-existing together
- Whether the information presented could be incorporated into the Multiculturalism Strategic Plan
- Whether the advisory committee recruitment process could include a component to target indigenous representatives
- Belief in the need for community dialogues regarding the topic to be held in Coquitlam communities and whether the Committee could champion such dialogues
- Belief in the power of the presented materials and of citizens to impact government policymakers
- Commentary regarding ethnic aisles and the seminal work of professor Kimberlé Crenshaw on intersectionality theory
- Clarification of some of the statistics provided during the presentation and whether the presenter had any information regarding pay inequities amongst different cultures in Europe
- The understanding that many international certifications and designations are not recognized in Canada
- Wage gaps and the importance of data analysis in that regard
- The recent Black Lives Matter movement and issues relative to racialized groups in Canada
- The role of the Committee to act in an advisory capacity to Council and give critical and valuable advice

## **6. Coquitlam Celebrates Canada Day Virtually 2020**

The Social Planner recapped plans for the City's 2020 virtual Canada Day celebrations, and the Committee considered whether it wished to participate in Canada Day festivities and/or provide an online activity to the public.

In the interests of time, the Chair suggested that the Committee could strike a Sub-committee to consider potential Canada Day activities. The following Committee members volunteered to participate in a Sub-committee: Simin Ahmadian, Pamela Garcia, Andrea Kwasnicki, Priti Shah, and Zahra Zaker. The Chair undertook to contact the Sub-committee via email to further brainstorm ideas.

## **7. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Welcome to Coquitlam Event – Early Planning Considerations**

The Manager Community Planning spoke to the Committee's past involvement in the Welcome to Coquitlam event and invited the Committee to provide input regarding the suggestion that the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Welcome to Coquitlam event could be moved to the spring of 2021.

Discussion ensued and the Committee agreed that it would be best to postpone the event to the spring of 2021 due to considerations involving the attendance of international students, inclement fall weather, and the desire that participants, especially those with English as a second language, be able to attend the event in person.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

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CHAIR

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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk