

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 14, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Racism Free Edmonton
ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent
RESOURCE
STAFF: Rosalind Smith

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees provides its commitment to the “I’m Committed to a Racism Free Edmonton” campaign be approved.

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Background

Edmonton Public Schools has participated as a Committee Member of the Racism Free Public Forum since August 2008. The District collaborated with 14 other educational institutions and community members to identify and implement an “Action Plan” (Appendix I) which addresses systemic barriers faced by racialized populations. In addition, the “Action Plan” includes strategies to promote a culture that respects and values cultural diversity.

The work of Racism Free Edmonton is closely aligned with the following district priorities.

1. Deepen students' understanding of equity and empathy as key citizenship traits.
2. Ensure all students and their families are welcomed, respected, accepted, and supported in every school.

This year the District has been involved in the following activities that support and align with Racism Free Edmonton:

- In February 2011, high school students participated in an open forum to discuss racism with Councillor Amarjeet Sohi.
- The District has actively participated in the Racism Free Campaign, distributing resources materials, posters, postcards and flyers to all schools in order to bring awareness to the campaign. Approximately 100 scrolls have been distributed to schools and Central Services.
- Since February 2011, district students, parents and staff have actively participated in making commitments to the scroll signing campaign. The activities have varied, but all have been highly engaging.

- Several schools held multicultural events, ranging from one day to one week in length. Students and parents reported that they felt valued and respected by their school administration of the schools which held the events.
- Over 50 staff, representing all staff groups, participated in the Racism Free Training, facilitated by the Centre for Race and Culture. There continues to be a demand for the training and it is the District's goal to provide more opportunities for staff training in the 2011-2012 school year.
- Elementary and junior high students have participated in the John Humphrey Centre's Rights of the Sun training. Several schools will continue this training in 2011-2013.
- The Migrant Routes Program, which includes a workshop and resources for school administrators and staff who work with newcomers has been a successful professional development opportunity for several schools. It will be offered again in the 2011-2012 school year.
- The Peace Ambassadors Project, which provides anti-racism training and volunteer opportunities for students has been successful. This work aligns with the social studies curriculum. Students who received the training this year are committed to continuing their participation in the 2011-2012 school year.
- The Aboriginal Attendance Circle Project, which helps students attend school regularly by using a holistic approach which combines a traditional sharing circle with restorative justice, was well received by students, parents and staff who participated.
- Rights Respecting Schools, which uses the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as a basis for enhancing an inclusive and respectful school culture, is a new initiative for the Province of Alberta. Currently Evansdale Elementary is participating in this training
- Two faith based schools have developed a "Respect" campaign, which highlights school-wide respect and racial discrimination has developed this year. It is anticipated that several other faith based schools may participate in this work next year.

Next Steps

Upon approval of the recommendation district students, parents and staff will be encouraged to continue to work together to develop and implement strategies to eliminate racism and discrimination in the city of Edmonton. Information on activities that are available for students, parents and staff to participate in will be shared via district communication vehicles, e.g., Need to Know News, Bulletin Board.

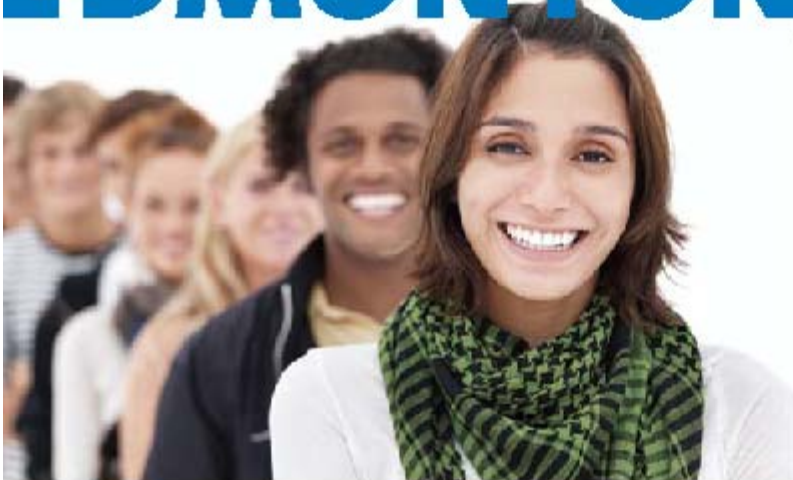


RACISM FREE EDMONTON

ACTION PLAN

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Discrimination Ten Commitments
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and Structure



The development and implementation of the
Racism Free Action Plan is made possible with funding from:



'04

The International Coalition of Cities Against Racism was launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2004 in response to the increasing acts of racism and discrimination around the world.

'05

In 2005, A Pan-Canadian Working Group involving representatives from the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission and other organizations began to develop the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD).

'06

The Coalition was established by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU). On January 13, 2006 CCU sent invitations to the mayors of all cities in Canada, inviting them to join the Coalition.

The initiative has been endorsed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), Alberta Community Development, and Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission (AHRCC).

FCM receives regular update reports through its Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development. Through the International Centre for Municipal Development, the FCM is also facilitating an educational process through which Canadian municipalities are sharing best practices related to fighting racism and discrimination with other municipalities around the world.

AUMA developed a tool kit, funded by AHRCC, designed to assist municipalities in developing an action plan. They have since confirmed their support for the initiative through the creation of a Senior Project Coordinator to oversee the project province-wide.



PREFACE

BACKGROUND



'07

In April City Council allocated funding and directed Administration to explore the City of Edmonton's participation in the Coalition. Consultation with key Administration and institutional and community stakeholders identified institutional and community support for the development of action plans to address racism.

In response to City Council approved direction, on December 1, 2006 Mayor Stephen Mandel wrote a letter to the CCU indicating the City of Edmonton intended to join CMARD.

In June 2007, Edmonton City Council publicly declared its membership in the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination. Edmonton is one of six municipalities in Alberta and one of twenty-seven in Canada to join CMARD.

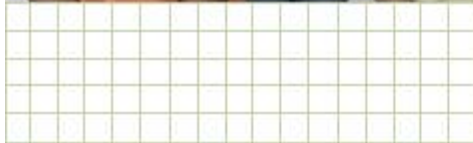
By signing the Declaration, the City has committed to eliminating racism in Edmonton by:

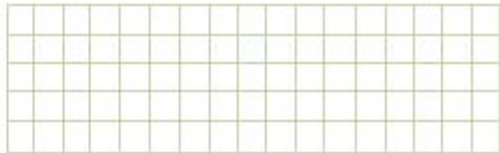
- developing and implementing an Action Plan approved by City Council
- collaborating with communities
- working with other municipalities on strategies and best practices.

The Racism Free Edmonton (RFE) Committee was established in June following Edmonton's declaration of membership, as an Administrative Committee of the City of Edmonton. The RFE Committee was created to provide input and support in the development and implementation of the Municipal Action Plan. The Committee decided to focus on racial discrimination before considering initiatives to counter other forms of discrimination.

Although it is the legitimate responsibility of other orders of government to enact and enforce laws governing human rights and citizenship, the integration of people of diverse cultures, religions and ancestral roots in Canada happens primarily at a municipal level. There are specific actions that cities can take to:

- ensure positive integration of groups
- prevent and respond effectively to acts of racism in the community
- address systemic barriers faced by racialized populations
- promote a culture that respects and values cultural diversity.





The Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination developed ten guiding commitments in three general areas:

The municipality as a guardian of the public interest:

- 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.

The municipality as an organization in the fulfillment of human rights:

- 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.

The municipality as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity:

- 8** Involve citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racist 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 racialized communities into the cultural fabric of the municipality.

TEN COMMITMENTS

Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination

The City of Edmonton Action Plan addresses all ten of these commitments.



While the City of Edmonton strives to be an inclusive, safe, and vibrant community, it faces some direct challenges in the area of race relations:

8 Incidents of anti-Semitism reported in the City of Edmonton in 2007.

17 complaints of hate crimes in Alberta in 2007.

White supremacist groups in Western Canada are actively promoting hate information.

The White Supremacist group the Aryan Guard is active in Canada and in Alberta.

RFE COMMITTEE

Racism
Free
Edmonton



Initial consultation efforts identified key stakeholders who could potentially provide invaluable expertise and a strong voice for the initiative. These stakeholders were brought together to form the Racism Free Edmonton Administration Committee. The Committee includes representatives from the six priority sectors identified below. All parties involved are committed to the elimination of racism in Edmonton. The Terms of Reference of the RFE Committee confirms each stakeholder's commitment.

Members of the Racism Free Edmonton Committee are from the City of Edmonton's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, other City departments, Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Edmonton Police Service, University of Alberta, colleges, school boards and various non-governmental organizations.

Following development and approval of its Terms of Reference, the Racism Free Edmonton Committee identified six priority sectors in which action ought to be promoted:

- 1 Employment
- 2 Policing and Justice
- 3 Education
- 4 Housing
- 5 Media
- 6 Youth.

Consultation

In order to ensure the Racism Free Edmonton Action Plan is effective and relevant, the Committee sought broad community consultation. A Public Involvement Plan was developed to help facilitate four Community Forums. Three forums were held in English and a fourth was conducted in French.

Participants prioritized issues and suggested possible solutions to overcome barriers. The forums allowed for the opportunity to meet with the community, understand their experiences of racism and helped identify potential new solutions to current problems.

The Forum Goals were:

- To honour CMAED commitment 8: "Involve residents by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making"
- To provide information to the public about the Racism Free Edmonton Committee and its current mandate
- To promote Edmonton as a municipality committed to being free of racism
- To provide the opportunity for community stakeholders to identify issues and potential solutions.



<p>1. Implement the City of Edmonton Diversity & Inclusion Framework</p>	<p>2. Raise public awareness of racism and publicly promote an atmosphere of inclusion and respect for cultural diversity</p>	<p>3. Provide leadership in encouraging and collaborating with other organizations and institutions in their efforts to:</p>
<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Each City department will continue to implement the City of Edmonton's Diversity and Inclusion Framework and evaluate the achievement of Senior Management Team's four Diversity and Inclusion Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Have a workforce broadly reflective of the community 2 Identify and address barriers within organizational systems 3 Attract and retain a talented workforce skilled at working in an inclusive and respectful manner with one another and the community 4 Create processes, policies, plans, practices, programs and services that meet the diverse needs of those we serve <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft for Council review a City Policy on Diversity and Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Draft for Council review a City Policy and Administrative Procedure that address racial discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate equity and diversity requirements into City Policies on procurement and contracting practices <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implement the Respectful Workplace Administrative Directive and Administrative Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Engage City of Edmonton employees at all levels in diversity competence education and Respectful Workplace implementation strategies <input type="checkbox"/> Develop, implement and evaluate an Administrative Procedure that addresses the goals of City Policy 529 –Immigration and Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Develop corporate-wide Diversity and Inclusion Awards that recognize inclusive practices within the City's employment and service systems <p>CMARD Commitment(s) Addressed: 5 6</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Join other organizations and groups in their efforts to raise awareness of racial discrimination and promote an atmosphere of inclusion (e.g., March 21 Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) <input type="checkbox"/> Partner with regional employers and employment sector organizations in raising awareness of the positive contributions made by immigrants and Aboriginal people to the economy of the region and encourage initiatives that improve the employment outcomes of racialized groups <input type="checkbox"/> In partnership with other orders of government, develop and implement initiatives that educate the public on human rights protections and complaint processes <p>CMARD Commitment(s) Addressed: 1 8 10</p> <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal organizations • Alberta Human Rights Commission • Canadian Human Rights Commission • Employers • Employment sector organizations • Non-governmental organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and address institutional policies and practices that create barriers for racialized groups • Develop inclusive policies and practices within their respective institutions • Develop and deliver programs that address racial discrimination and promote inclusion of racialized groups <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> To address issues of racial discrimination outside the jurisdiction of the municipality, the City will coordinate Racism Free Edmonton, a collaborative, multi-stakeholder initiative through which institutions and organizations will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and address institutional barriers to racialized groups, • Develop inclusive policies, • Develop programs and practices that address racial discrimination and promote inclusion of racialized groups, and • Coordinate a biennial convention that incorporates educational workshops and seminars that promote anti-racism and inclusive practices in six stakeholder identified priority sectors: Education; Policing and Justice; Employment; Housing; Media; Youth <p>CMARD Commitment(s) Addressed: 1 4 6 7 8 9</p> <p>Potential Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Governmental Organizations • School Boards • Post Secondary Institutions • Edmonton Police Service • Canadian Heritage • Citizenship and Immigration Canada • Alberta Human Rights Commission • Print and electronic media • Employment sector organizations • Alberta Solicitor General

4. Respond publicly to issues of racial discrimination in the community	5. Develop monitoring mechanisms and evaluate action plan impacts	6. Report Successes and Challenges
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Actions:

- Through Racism Free Edmonton, develop communication protocols and act as a public information source in response to racially or hate motivated incidents in the community

CMARD Commitment(s) Addressed:

1

Potential Partners:

Racism Free Edmonton stakeholder group

Actions:

- Through Racism Free Edmonton, create and implement mechanisms that:
 - measure the incidence of racial discrimination in the region and track trends over time, and
 - record the implementation of practices and policies directed toward the elimination of barriers faced by racialized groups

CMARD Commitment(s) Addressed:

2

Potential Partners:

Racism Free Edmonton stakeholder group

Actions:

- City of Edmonton Administration will prepare an annual report for City Council that outlines the City's corporate diversity and inclusion activity and progress toward the achievement of the City's diversity and inclusion goals
- Racism Free Edmonton will prepare and present to City Council an annual report that outlines the activities of the initiative and its progress toward achieving the goals of the Action Plan
- Both Council reports will be presented to the public as well as submitted to CMARD and UNESCO to inform citizens and relevant organizations of the City's progress toward addressing the 10 CMARD Commitments

CMARD Commitment(s) Addressed:

Declaration of Membership

Potential Partners:

Racism Free Edmonton stakeholder group

ACTION PLAN

City of Edmonton	
Racism Free	
Action Plan	
<input type="checkbox"/> In Progress	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved	



REF STRUCTURE

Racism Free Edmonton										
Governance and										
Implementation Structure										
— Accountability Relationship										
• Resource Relationship Exists with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and Project Coordinator and Administrative Support										
--- Council Liaison Relationship										

Community / Stakeholder Involvement

Education*

Employment*

Housing*

Media*

Policing/Justice*

Youth*

WHO Operational staff directed by managers to develop action and active members of organizations and groups through which supportive action will facilitate the achievement of RFE objectives

ROLE Develop, recommend and implement actions; report impacts and outcomes

PARTICIPANTS

- City of Edmonton – Managers from relevant business units
- Edmonton Police Service
- Major School Boards
- Major Post Secondary Institutions
- Broad-based Non-profit / NGOs with racism focus
- Provincial / Federal Government Ministries

MEETING FREQUENCY Annually

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Public involvement processes
- Institution & community-based action planning and implementation
- Outcome reporting
- Research collaborations

Stakeholder Decision Maker Group

CEO Committee*

WHO Senior managers with overall responsibility for policy leadership and strategic direction of key organizations or institutions

ROLE Champions of initiative on public and institutional levels

PARTICIPANTS

- City of Edmonton– Deputy City Manager
- Edmonton Police Service– Chief of Police
- Major School Boards– Superintendents
- Major Post Secondary Institutions– Presidents
- Major Housing Organization–CEO
- Business Sector Representative

MEETING FREQUENCY Annually

Management Action Team*

WHO Managers or directors with authority to direct and influence action within their respective organizations or institutions in priority sectors

ROLE Directing and influencing action within respective institutions; overseeing and providing input into RFE collective initiatives

PARTICIPANTS

- City of Edmonton – Managers from relevant business units
- Edmonton Police Service
- Major School Boards
- Major Post Secondary Institutions
- Broad-based Non-profit / NGOs with racism focus
- Provincial / Federal Government Ministries

MEETING FREQUENCY Quarterly or bi-monthly

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Biennial Convention
- Public Awareness Campaign
- Public Response to Racism Issues
- Monitoring Issues and Impacts
- Annual Reporting

City of Edmonton

City Council

Deputy City Manager

Office of Diversity & Inclusion

Project Coordinator and Administrative Support

Contact Racism Free Edmonton: racismfreedmonton@edmonton.ca | 780-495-1957 | www.racismfreedmonton.ca