

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Secretary, Planning and Operations Committee
FROM: Chair, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee
DATE: April 8, 2004
SUBJECT: 2003-2004 Annual Report
Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee
FILE NO.: CK. 430-29)

RECOMMENDATION: that the information be received and forwarded to City Council as information.

Message from the Chair

2003 was a year in which race relations issues dominated the political, legal and social landscape in our city. It was a year in which racial tensions became the subject of front page headlines in Saskatoon. It was the year the Neil Stonechild inquiry began its hearings. It was the year in which race based criminal gangs gained widespread notoriety. It was a year in which race relations became a major campaign issue in the election for mayor. And it was a year in which many voters may have expressed race related concerns and fears at the ballot box. In time, 2003 may well be viewed as a watershed year for race relations in our city.

The Race Relations Office and the Race Relations Committee addressed these issues head on. The Committee heard presentations on street gang crime, on housing and community services, on employment equity, on programs directed at improving aboriginal employment, on urban aboriginal reserves, and on the economic indicators for measuring the success of the city's efforts in improving race relations. The Office and Committee also heard and addressed complaints from individuals and concerned downtown merchants.

The Race Relations Committee (recently renamed the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee) welcomed the arrival of Monica Goulet in August 2003 as the new Coordinator of the Race Relations Office. Monica immediately set to work to put in place the organization and networks needed to implement the new City Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy developed in last year's Social Policy Round Table discussions.

The Race Relations Committee continued to support and promote Race Relations Month and its Living in Harmony programs. It co-sponsored programs with the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, the Saskatoon Public and Catholic School Boards and the organizing committee for National Aboriginal Day. With Saskatchewan Public Legal Education (PLEA) and the League of Peaceful Schools, the Committee sponsored the publication and distribution of "Purple Bear, Yellow Bear" (by Saskatoon high school student, Carlene Deutscher) to students around the city and province. In its annual

community awards, the Race Relations Committee continued to recognize and promote positive efforts and contributions by Saskatoon citizens toward improving race relations and celebrating cultural diversity in our city.

It is our hope that, in its work throughout the year, the Committee continues to provide some important and effective assistance to City Council in addressing cultural and race relations matters in Saskatoon.

REPORT

In 1989, City Council established the Race Relations Committee as an advisory committee to propose to local government short-term and long-term strategies to minimize racial tension and promote racial harmony. The mandate included reviewing policies, practices and programs of the City to recommend amendments and/or new action with respect to Personnel (including employment practices and the Affirmative Action Program), Law Enforcement, Leisure Services, Housing and Community Services, Education and Training, Use of Municipal Facilities, and Planning and Zoning.

The Committee's mandate also included cooperating with and supporting other organizations, associations, bodies and orders of Government with similar aims and objectives, thereby developing a network to encourage positive community relations. At that time, there was also a role for the Committee to receive, review and refer, as required, complaints of discrimination, acts of prejudice, racism and discriminatory practices within the city or within city bureaucracy or from citizens with respect to municipal staff and activities.

In 2004, the name of the Committee was changed to the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee and the Terms of Reference are currently in the process of being revised.

Committee Membership

Membership on the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee for the year 2003 included Councillors Owen Fortosky and Lenore Swystun (City Council Representatives) Geri Yee (Saskatchewan Intercultural Association Representative); Randy St. Denis (Aboriginal Community – Public Representative); Ernestine Starr (Department of Community Resources and Employment Representative); Sharon Laflamme (Saskatoon Catholic Schools Representative to end of June); Anna-Leah King (Saskatoon Catholic Schools Representative from October to December); Cort Dogniez (Saskatoon Board of Education Representative); Andrew Mason, Nesar Rajput, David Simpson, Shelina Kassam, Paulette Traynor and Gatdeet Wakou (General Public Representatives); Gary Beaudin (Saskatoon and District Health Board Representative) and Police Chief Sabo (Saskatoon Police Service Representative).

2003 Activities (up to March 31, 2004)

Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy Review

As background information, in 2002, an extensive public consultation and review by the Administration, Race Relations Committee and the Social Policy Development Round Table was undertaken, following recommendations outlined in an Audit Report on the Race Relations Program.

This review continued into 2003 with the drafting of the new policy to replace the Equity and Anti-Racism Policy, consideration of a new name for the program, as well as the need for indicators to determine whether we are making a difference in the community with respect to race relations. The Committee participated in the development of appropriate indicators, which were included in the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy approved by City Council on February 9, 2004.

The Committee put forward several recommendations relating to the policy review, including an annual reporting by the Committee on the state of race relations in the city based on information provided by the Administration on the indicators of success. Further recommendations of the Committee dealt with the creation of advisory positions to look at issues relating to the Aboriginal community and immigrant and refugee resettlement in Saskatoon.

In addition, the Committee recommended a change in the name of the Committee to the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee and this was supported by City Council and became effective on February 9, 2004.

Race Relations Month

2003

In 2003, Race Relations Month began with an Opening Ceremony on February 28 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. This included the launch of the Building an Inclusive Community Calendar, outlining events throughout the community for Race Relations Month. City Council proclaimed March as Race Relations Month in Saskatoon for the year 2003.

The Living in Harmony Awards Ceremony was held at the Frances Morrison Library on March 21, with awards being presented for the picture contest to: Maia Stark, Elementary School Category; Jillian Harms, Elementary School Category; Samantha Matheson, Honourable Mention, Elementary School Category; Kelsey Mayes, High School Category; and Irene Stroshein, General Public Category. The winners of the literary contest were Dylan Hardy, Elementary School Category, and Carlene Deutscher, High School Category.

2004

On March 1, 2004, the opening ceremony for Race Relations Month was held, with welcome and introductions by Monica Goulet, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator. Guest speaker for the ceremony was the Honourable Joan Beatty, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation. Greetings were also received from Minister Pat Atkinson, Tribal Chief Glenn Johnstone and Mayor Don Atchison. City Manager Richards presented the “Together We’re Building an Inclusive Community” calendar. A special literary reading was given by Dylan Hardy, a winner of the 2003 literary contest.

The Living in Harmony Awards Ceremony was held on March 19, 2004 at the Frances Morrison Library. Chair, Andrew Mason, emceed the program. Mayor Atchison, Police Chief Sabo, and Chief Commissioner Donna Scott, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission provided greetings. Guest Speaker was Saba Andu, Reception and Outreach Counsellor, Saskatoon Open Door Society. Special Performances were provided by the Pleasant Hill Flute Players.

Committee members participated in presentation of the 2004 Living in Harmony awards. The Living in Harmony recognition awards, which are presented to individuals and local organizations to recognize their efforts in promoting intercultural harmony in the community, were presented to Eleanor Shia, the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, Dr. Jay Kalra, the Crisis Nursery, and Gayle Weenie.

As part of the ceremony, the recipients of the Living in Harmony literary contest, Mallory Dyck and Dylan Hardy recited their works. Catherine Cameron was the recipient of the picture contest award in the general public category. Kelsey Mayes received the award for the high school category. The recipients in the elementary school category were Kelsey Morgan Quewezance-Martin and Nicole Jeffrey. The winning artworks were on display at the ceremony. The Public Legal Education Association also gave a presentation to Carlene Deutscher for her work “Purple Bear, Yellow Bear”, which had received an award in 2003.

The Committee also continued to be involved on the planning committee for events planned by the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association for March 21st and to co-sponsor these events.

National Aboriginal Day

The Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre once again approached the Committee for co-sponsor of the National Aboriginal Day. The Committee provided \$500 co-sponsorship and was represented on the planning committee by Ms. Sharon Laflamme. Also on the planning committee were Paulette Traynor and Cort Dogniez.

National Aboriginal Day was held on June 21, 2003, with the celebrations starting with a grand entry and welcoming of guests at 11 a.m. in Kiwanis Park, a community lunch

prepared by the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre at 12:00 noon, and entertainment from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Further events followed at Wanuskewin starting at 7 p.m.

Request for Co-Sponsorship for School
Transportation Fees to First Nation's Cultural Celebration

The Committee received a request for co-sponsorship school transportation fees to the First Nation's Cultural Awareness Days in October 2003. The Committee forwarded a report to the Administration and Finance Committee, explaining the nature and importance of the event, recommending that City Council approve funding up to \$2,000 toward city bus transportation costs to the First Nation's Cultural Celebration to be held on October 16 and 17, 2003, and indicating that the Race Relations Committee would co-sponsor this event in an amount to be determined.

The Administration and Finance Committee reviewed the request and referred the matter to the Administration for consideration under the Urban Aboriginal Grant or other appropriate grant that might be available. In addition, the Race Relations Committee considered this matter further and appointed Mr. Cort Dogniez as the Committee's representative on the planning committee and agreed to co-sponsor the event in the amount of \$1,000.

Following the event, Mr. Dogniez provided a verbal report, noting that it was well attended, with 700 students attending from the Saskatoon Public School Division and 914 students from the Saskatoon Catholic School Division. There were 37 workshops provided on a variety of topics to raise students awareness of First Nation's history, cultures and perspectives. Entertainment was provided by the Saskatchewan Native Theater Company and the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre Dancers. The co-sponsorship from the Committee was used for transportation and divided equally between the two school boards to offset the cost of transportation. Mr. Dogniez represented the Race Relations Committee at the Friday night VIP reception as well as at two of the three Grand Entries at the powwow on October 18 and 19th. The evaluations of the cultural celebrations were positive and plans are underway to hold a third annual cultural celebration and powwow next year.

The Bridging Group

The Committee received a presentation from Ms. Eileen Gelowitz and Messrs. Dalton Cameron and Robert White, of the Bridging Group, with respect to what the group is about and future cultural activities, including the Spring Feast and Round Dance held on April 26, 2003. The Committee was invited to attend this event, members were asked to participate in their group, and the Committee was asked to co-sponsor the event. The Committee approved co-sponsorship in the amount of \$500 and Nesar Rajput was appointed as the Committee's representative on the group.

Mr. Rajput provided a verbal report to the Committee on the events, including his attendance at a meeting of the group and the April 26th Spring Feast and Round Dance held at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

Appointment to Saskatoon Settlement and Integration Co-ordinating Committee

City Council referred a letter from Giovanna Pirro, Settlement and Integration Officer, Immigration Branch, Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs and Jan Katerynych, Executive Director, Saskatoon Open Door Society, to the Race Relations Committee for a recommendation. The purpose of the above Committee was to address issues affecting immigrant and refugee settlement and retention in Saskatoon and area.

The Race Relations Committee recommended that Mr. Gatdeet Wakou be appointed to the Saskatoon Settlement and Integration Coordinating Committee. City Council supported this recommendation. Mr. Wakou, along with Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator Goulet, and Mr. Simpson, another member of the Committee representing the Global Gathering Place, continue to participate on the Saskatoon Settlement and Integration Co-ordinating Committee.

The matter of immigrant and refugee resettlement is a topic of continuing discussion by the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee to determine further opportunities for recommendations to City Council on this issue.

Referrals from City Council

The Committee considered various communications referred from City Council and responded directly to the writers, providing information about what is happening with respect to the new Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Policy, as well as other related initiatives in the city.

Presentations to the Committee

During the year, several presentations were provided to the Committee, including:

- Overview of general usage of recreational and leisure facilities – Leisure Services and Community Development Branch Managers;
- Employer Circle Program - Saskatoon Tribal Council;
- Street Youth Gangs – Saskatoon Police Service;
- Urban Reserves – City Planning Branch Manager;
- Saskatoon Settlement and Integration Coordinating Committee – Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Needs and Retention Study - Giovanna Pirro, Settlement and Integration Officer, Immigration Branch, Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, and Sultanali Sadat, Member, Saskatoon Settlement and Integration Coordinating Committee.
- Presentation – Increasing Women’s Participation in Municipal Consultation Processes Project – Dr. Verna St. Denis

Social Policy Development Round Table and Advisory Boards and Committees

The Committee participated in a review of a proposed model relating to Advisory Committees and the Social Policy Development Round Table, which looked at reducing the number of advisory committees, each meeting three or four times a year, and with a process other than the Social Policy Development Round Table for bringing the advisory committees together, when required. The Committee's discussion included reference to the continued and future role of the Committee in the following areas:

- Taking an active role in monitoring policy and providing advice to City Council;
- Involvement in Aboriginal and immigrant issues as put forward in the Committee's recommendations relating to some type of advisors in those two areas;
- Involvement in events such as the March ceremonies and National Aboriginal Day celebrations, and other community initiatives that may come forward; and
- Reviewing and making decisions regarding Living in Harmony Recognition Awards and requests for co-sponsorships.

At that time the Committee had questions about broadening the scope of the Committee to include the areas of safety, accessibility and gender equity. The Committee also expressed concerns about reducing the number of meetings because of the need to address issues on an ongoing and timely basis.

Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator's Report

With the filling of the position of the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Coordinator effective August 18, 2003, the Committee once again received updates at its monthly meetings with respect to work in the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Program.

Educational Initiatives

The Committee determined that it would like to produce a series of fact or information sheets for distribution to the public with respect to race relations issues. The first of the series was developed by the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Co-ordinator, in consultation with the Committee, and was circulated at the Living in Harmony Ceremonies on March 19, 2004. A copy of the information sheet on Aboriginal issues is attached.

The Committee is also planning to host a forum on race relations issues in the future.

Yellow Bear/Purple Bear Colouring Book Project

The Chair of the Committee approached representatives from the Public Legal Education Association with a view to publishing the "Yellow Bear/Purple Bear" story and colouring

book project by Carlene Deutscher. This was one of the winning entries in the Living in Harmony literary contest from 2003. PLEA was very enthusiastic about the project and reached an agreement with the author and the Committee for the publication and distribution of this work. In addition to providing its consent and granting publication rights, the Committee contributed \$200 towards the printing costs. Approximately 10,000 copies were printed and distributed to schools and other organizations in the city and throughout the province.

Invitations

The Committee received an invitation from the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association to the Saskatoon Multilingual School Year End Celebration, marking the 20th Anniversary of the Saskatoon Multilingual School. The event was held on May 31. Information was provided with respect to invitations to activities planned for Affordable Housing Week held from October 14 to 17, 2003. There were several other invitations to events in the community received by the Committee throughout the year.

Informational Material

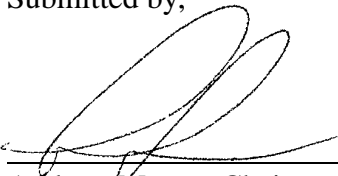
The Committee received copies of the several reports and documents for its information, including the Saskatoon Catholic Schools Newsletter – “Sharing Our Journey” and the report of the Community Services Department dated January 28, 2004 on Urban Aboriginal Initiatives.

2004 Proposed Budget – Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee

The Committee has submitted the following proposed budget for consideration by the Budget Committee:

Member Development (Travel, Conferences, Meetings)	\$ 1,000
Race Relations Month	\$ 2,400
Co-Sponsorships	\$ 5,000
Publications \$	\$ 500
Public Consultations	\$ 1,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 200
Photocopying/courier/mail	<u>\$ 1,600</u>
Total	\$11,700

Submitted by,



Andrew Mason, Chair
Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee