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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM REGION ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE

Thursday, October 26, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:04 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Traditional Territory Acknowledgment

Chair Samuel read the following land acknowledgement:

We are currently located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among the Mississauga Peoples and is the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nation. We honour, recognize and respect this nation and Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

#### 2. Roll Call

Present: S. Bookal, Community Member  
PG Case, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Vice-Chair  
R. Coelho, Community Member  
A. Frempong, Community Member  
B. Goodwin, Commissioner of Corporate Services  
J. Munawa, Community Member  
C. Oyeniran, Community Member  
N. Samuel, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative, Chair  
K. Vieneer, Community Member  
J. Williamson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative  
attended the meeting at 7:16PM  
G. Wilson-Beier, Community Member  
**\* all members participated electronically**

Absent: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
T. Hancock, Community Member  
Councillor Lee, Regional Council  
B. Nelson, Industry/Association/Public Institution Representative  
Councillor Shahid, Regional Council

#### Staff

Present: A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
A. Sharma, Policy Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

P. Hines, Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
H. Mohammed, Policy Coordinator, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\* all staff participated electronically**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by PG Case, Seconded by A. Frempong,  
That the minutes of the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting  
held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations to be heard.

**6. Presentations**

There were no presentations to be heard.

**7. Information Items**

A) Meeting Format and Preferences

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H. Mohammed stated that a survey was sent out to obtain feedback from committee members on meeting format and preferences. She shared the results of the survey which showed a majority of members would like to change the meeting format from hybrid to virtual for the winter months, and committee members were in agreement with this change.

H. Mohammed indicated that the survey also included a section about whether there was interest in organizing a social event for the committee. She shared the results of the survey which indicated that a majority of members are interested in organizing a social event 1-2 times per year.

Discussion ensued with respect to the meeting format following winter; if members would be agreeable to convening sub-committee meetings immediately following the monthly committee meetings; the suitability of breakout rooms for this purpose; and whether the duration of the monthly meetings would be affected.

Staff indicated they would confirm with members whether the next committee meeting will incorporate sub-committee meetings, and share information and suggestions for a social event.

## 8. Discussion Items

### A) Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN)

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P. Hines stated that Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN) is a not-for-profit organization based in Vaughan that is made up of a team of volunteers that offers programs and scholarships for Black students. She advised that BFCN, in partnership with the Region and the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce, is hosting a 2-hour webinar on Monday, November 13, 2023, for Durham community members that will provide information to grade 8 and high school students and their parents about the programs BFCN offers, with a specific focus on scholarships available to students that identify as Black. P. Hines stated that the scholarships relate to post-secondary education and can be applied for by students entering or enrolled in post-secondary studies. P. Hines advised that a flyer for the event is being finalized and will be circulated to the committee members.

Staff responded to questions from the committee in regards to what the committee's role in the event would be and who would qualify for the scholarships.

### B) Sub-committee Updates

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#### 1. Education Working Group

A. Hector-Alexander provided an update on behalf of the Education Working Group and stated that the conversation relating to the community healing event is ongoing and the date and time have not yet been determined. She suggested that if a date in January is selected, it may lead into Black History Month, and that a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

#### 2. School Board Working Group

G. Wilson-Beier provided an update on behalf of the School Board Working Group and stated that the sub-committee did not receive any responses to the group's request for members to provide information of internal contacts known within any of the school systems. She reiterated the request and indicated that it would be appreciated if any committee members have a direct contact to provide as it would be helpful to initiate a meaningful conversation and identify points of collaboration.

G. Wilson-Beier advised that the working group has a list of education systems for which they are requesting direct contacts for, which will be

distributed to committee members. The group intends to send Durham schools/school systems a letter inviting them to collaborate with DRART and other Durham school systems on approaches, policies, and practices to manage racism/discrimination in school communities.

3. EDI Working Group

A. Frempong provided an update on behalf of the EDI Working Group and stated that the Director of Advocacy, Research and Outreach for the Coalition of Muslim Women of Kitchener/Waterloo reached out to set up a meeting with the group to discuss the strategy they took in lobbying their local council to add provisions against hate speech into their by-laws, and their development strategy for creating a reporting tool which was municipally funded. She advised of the EDI group's intention of bringing a similar model to the Region. A. Frempong also stated that the Director advised that there has been an increase in their reporting tool being used in their community as a result of the rise of Islamophobia around the province and Canada.

4. DRPS Working Group

J. Munawa provided an update on behalf of the DRPS Working Group and stated that the group is continuing to work on the creation of a public resource outlining the process for reporting hate crimes in the Region. The working group had an initial introduction meeting with Sergeant Conrad Wong to ask questions about DRPS' Equity Unit and the process for reporting hate crimes. She advised that a subsequent meeting will be arranged, and she shared a list of questions the group has compiled to bring up at the next meeting with DRPS and invited members of the committee to participate in adding to the list of questions.

Discussion ensued with respect to potential questions to be asked at a future meeting with DRPS including if DRPS would consider collecting race-based data of persons being apprehended, in addition to the race-based data of the apprehending officer that is already being collected.

Further discussion ensued with respect to the possibility of inviting Sergeant Wong, Sergeant Chavannes and/or Chief Moreira to a future committee meeting, and the purpose/necessity of DRPS members being in full uniform and armed at community events.

9. **Other Business**

There were no items of other business.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce meeting will be held on Thursday, November 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by PG Case, Seconded by C. Oyeniran,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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N. Samuel, Chair

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V. Walker, Committee Clerk